

CHANGING OF THE UNION GUARD

Now that he's a lame duck, Dan Robert gives us the lowdown on the remainder of his term in office, including why he's not giving money to student bursaries ... **NEWS, PAGE 2**

JAMMING THE POLE

Despite poor attendance, frozen WLU students 'jammed' University Stadium for yet another opportunity to take in Bedouin Soundclash, amongst others ... **A&E, PAGE 28**

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IN VAIN-IER CUP? - Fullback Dan McBride is "let down" WLU isn't pitching in for their championship rings.

One ring to rule them all

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Laurier football player Dan McBride has had many great moments during his five years as a Golden Hawk, but winning the Vanier Cup this year is one of those incredibly rare moments that will define the rest of his life.

The Golden Hawks battled it out tirelessly on the gridiron to take home the Vanier Cup. Now that the game is over, however, McBride and his teammates find themselves in a surprising new

fight - to raise enough money to purchase Vanier Cup championship rings.

With no financial support coming from the school or the students' union, the championship football team now has to fundraise to collect their prizes.

"We were let down for sure," says McBride. "Everyone's obviously a little disappointed. We put in such a time commitment."

McBride is in the Concourse handing out information about a fundraising event at the Turret set for this Thursday night. A

young lady passes by him, offering words of support and assurance of her attendance. McBride says students are shocked that their football team has to pay for their own rings.

"Everybody is just in disbelief," sighs McBride. "People just assume that those are given to you, or that, you know, you don't have to pay for them. But unfortunately we're in a situation where we have to come up with that money."

- See **FOOTBALL**, page 3

Women's hockey slips into second

Defending national champs falter en route to playoffs

MIKE BROWN
Sports Editor

For women's hockey bench boss Rick Osborne, it's time to get creative. After a 4-2 Saturday afternoon loss to the Queen's Golden Gaels, Osborne needed to try something different in Sunday's 3-0 win over a surging Brock Badgers club.

With the loss, the Hawks fell from their perch atop the CIS rankings for the first time since winning last year's national title.

"We're a little ahead of ourselves," explains Osborne. "Everybody's talking about nationals around us. Everybody's talking about this, that and the other thing, and these outcomes that are way out there, so today's game plan was to set shift-by-shift goals and focus."

It was a focus that was lacking in the two-goal loss to Queen's, in which the team had trouble finish-

ing. Despite out-shooting the Golden Gaels 38-20, they left the Waterloo Recreation Complex empty-handed.

The rust was evident for second-year goaltender Morgan Wielgosz, who returned to the lineup after a two-week layoff since suffering a concussion in a win over Guelph.

"It was rough," laughed Wielgosz, who said she was too hesitant with the memories of being charged still vivid in her mind's eye.

She looked much better on Sunday, however, stopping all 20 shots she faced including a tough 2-on-0. Brock veteran Michelle Edgar nearly capitalized with a pretty dangle to lose second-year defender Andrea Bevan, but met a brick wall in the well-positioned keeper.

- See **WOMEN**, page 8

APOLOGY - On page 19 of last week's international section, the censored image accompanying the article "Cartoon ignites Muslim furor" was not meant to explicitly show the Prophet Muhammad, but it has been brought to our attention that he was clearly identifiable in the Arabic text of the picture. *The Cord* regrets the cultural ignorance of the oversight and apologizes to anyone this may have offended.

BACK TO THE FUTURE, PART 6

The Cord continues its eight-part series looking into the muddy waters of Laurier history. Part six details 1976-86, when WLUSU banned gay campus clubs, The Cord defamed women's rights and someone jumped off the seventh floor of the library ... **CORD HISTORY, PAGES 12-13**



THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"He was shot in somewhere we can only describe as the face."
-The Daily Show's Rob Cordery reporting on Dick Cheney's last victim

WORD OF THE WEEK

Diktat (dik-TAHT), noun: 1. A harsh settlement unilaterally imposed on a defeated party. 2. An authoritative decree or order. A diktat was imposed on the Italian women's hockey team to never play again after losing to Canada 16-0.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news
and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately
and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation
of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial
opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of *The Cord* shall uphold all commonly held ethical
conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of
commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged
promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual,
an organization, or shall give false or misleading opportu-
nity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently
conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of inter-
est will be avoided by all staff.

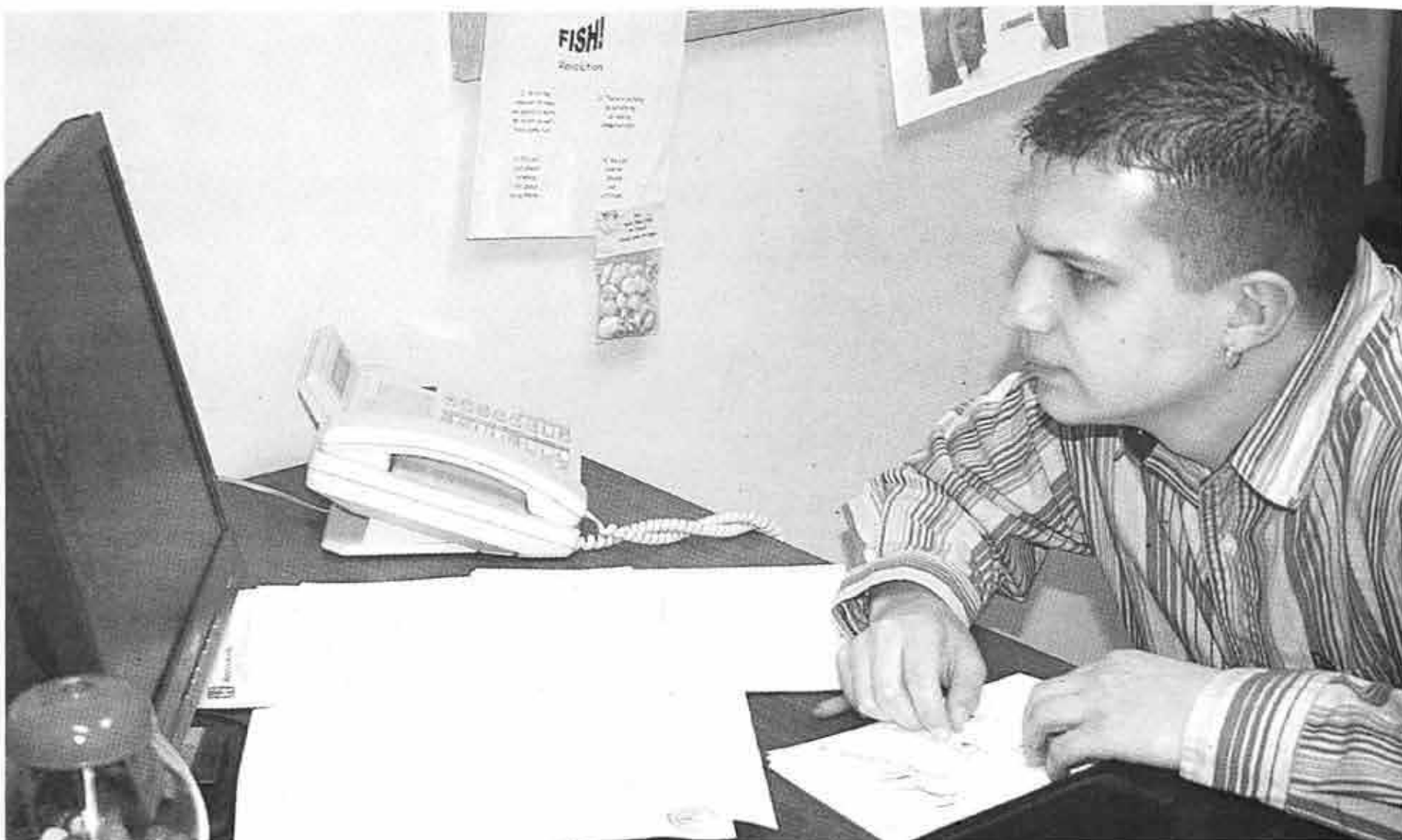
The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world
around it, and so *The Cord* will attempt to cover its world
with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the
community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to
the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University.
Ultimately, *The Cord* will be bound by neither philosophy,
nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press
and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when
debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal
 workings of the paper, and through *The Cord's* contact with
the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of
neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the
student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so
shall conduct the affairs of our newspapers.

Changing of the guard

Nearing the end of his term, Students' Union president Dan Robert reflects on the year that was and what lies ahead



Adrian Ma

END OF THE LINE - Outgoing WLUSU president Dan Robert (above) gives his work a final once-over before he closes the book on his year in office.

> Interview with Dan Robert

**How do you feel about the elec-
tion of Allan Cayenne as your suc-
cessor?**

"I'm pretty excited about it. I've
actually known Allan since the day
he set foot on this campus. I've
watched him grow throughout his
many years here. I'm very excited,
and I think the Students' Union
and students on this campus are
in very good hands next year."

**The new BOD that has been elect-
ed is a fairly progressive board.
Will this make a difference next
year?**

"I wouldn't say that that Board
would be any different from any
board. With a group that big you're
always going to have differing
views on things and that's the
good part of it. They're represent-
ing students from all different
areas and it's really great to have
those different ideas."

**Any surprises on who got elected
to the BOD?**

"To be fully honest I didn't follow
every BOD candidates' platform
very closely, so I didn't have a list
of 15 that I would compare
[laughs]. There might have been
one or two unsuccessful people
that I thought would have done a
great job and I think there might
be a small number of people that I
would find questionable."

Can you name any names?

[laughs] "The students have spo-
ken and that's what ultimately
matters."

**Can you give us an update on the
Wilison Field reconstruction?**

"Wilison Field ... [There] isn't too
much to update on that other
than the fact that all systems seem
like they're ready to go for this
summer. Waiting for the snow to
melt and the ground to thaw a tiny
bit and then the reno can start;
having everything ready for stu-
dents when they get back on cam-
pus ... everything seems in motion
for that to happen."

**How about the Albert-Seagram
crosswalk?**

"The city was recommending only
painting the ground, which is
what they called pedestrian treat-
ment. So we have countered that
with a letter to the city stating that
that wasn't going to meet our safety
concerns and that letter was fol-
lowed by a similar letter from the
university administration with a
similar message. So now the ball's
in their court ... We'll definitely
continue to push for something a
lot safer in that area."

**Part of your own election plat-
form was to invest \$50,000 into
student bursaries. You've since
decided not to follow through
with this initiative: What hap-
pened and where will the money
go?**

"Basically what happened is that
[with] my research in student bur-
saries, I only had access to recent,
limited documents, and then once
[I was] in the position and doing
more research and talking to more
people, realized that the Students'
Union currently has close to a mil-
lion dollars in endowed funds for
scholarship and bursaries to go
back the students on this campus
annually."

"With that news, to me, adding
another 50,000 dollars into a pot
where that [money] was [not
going] to be a significant differ-
ence because the pot was already
so big ... [I decided] it would be
better for myself to work with the
directors to reevaluate and look at
it different ways to actually touch
students on campus with that
extra money."

"We don't have any solutions
that are jumping out right now
anymore more than the possibility
of a fee cut for next year and years
beyond. But we're still researching
into possibilities. My mindset
going into it was I didn't see a full
justification into adding a small
amount of money into a pot that
was already so large ... We'll leave it
up to the students of this campus
to get creative."

**Polar Jam was this past weekend,
but attendance was less than stel-
lar - what happened there?**

"I only got to run to the stadium
just as Bedouin was coming on. I
only saw the tail end of it, so what
I saw was probably the busiest
part of the night, which still was a

little bit lower than we expected.

"With such a big event and two
schools working together for the
first time ... we learned a lot from it
and it would be a shame to have
learnt so much and not be able to
do anything with that in future. I
would not be surprised if we saw
something like Polar Jam next year
and beyond."

**What was the biggest challenge
you faced as WLUSU president
this year? Would you do anything
differently if you had a second
chance?**

"I think it's the same challenge
that WLUSU as a whole faces every
year, which is trying to meet the
needs of all students ... at some
point you can't make everyone
happy and I think that realizing
you can't make everyone happy is
the first step. And then coming up
with how to make the most
amount of people is the next step.

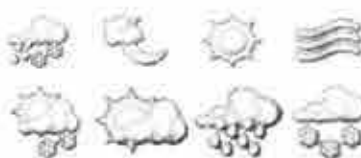
"As far as different, I wouldn't do
anything differently to be honest.
I'm happy with the way WLUSU
has run this year."

**How would you rate your per-
formance as WLUSU president?**

"It's up to the students. It would be
interesting to hear the students'
feedback on that. You'll get a range
I'm sure ... there's no middle
ground from what I've seen."

So, what's next for Dan Robert?

[laughs] "Dan Robert needs a
vacation."

5 DAY ACTION NEWS
WEATHER FORECAST

Today

Morning:



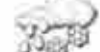
Sunny Breaks
-8°C 30% POP

Afternoon:



Sunny Breaks
-3°C 60% POP

Thursday



Rain or Snow
High 4°C Low -5°C
80% POP

Friday



A Few Flurries
High -2°C Low -7°C
40% POP

Saturday



A Few Flurries
High -6°C Low -14°C
60% POP

Sunday



A Few Flurries
High -8°C Low -13°C
60% POP

VOCAL CORD

What do you think of Laurier's football players having to pay for their own Vanier Cup rings?



"[The rings] should be provided for after that kind of accomplishment."

- Scott Mahn
First-year business



"If they're good enough to win a championship, they're good enough to have their rings bought for them."

- Steven Rosen
Third-year political science



"Why should the school have to pay for an accessory showing that they won? They already have the notoriety."

- Laura Countryman
Second-year psychology



"That's bullshit."

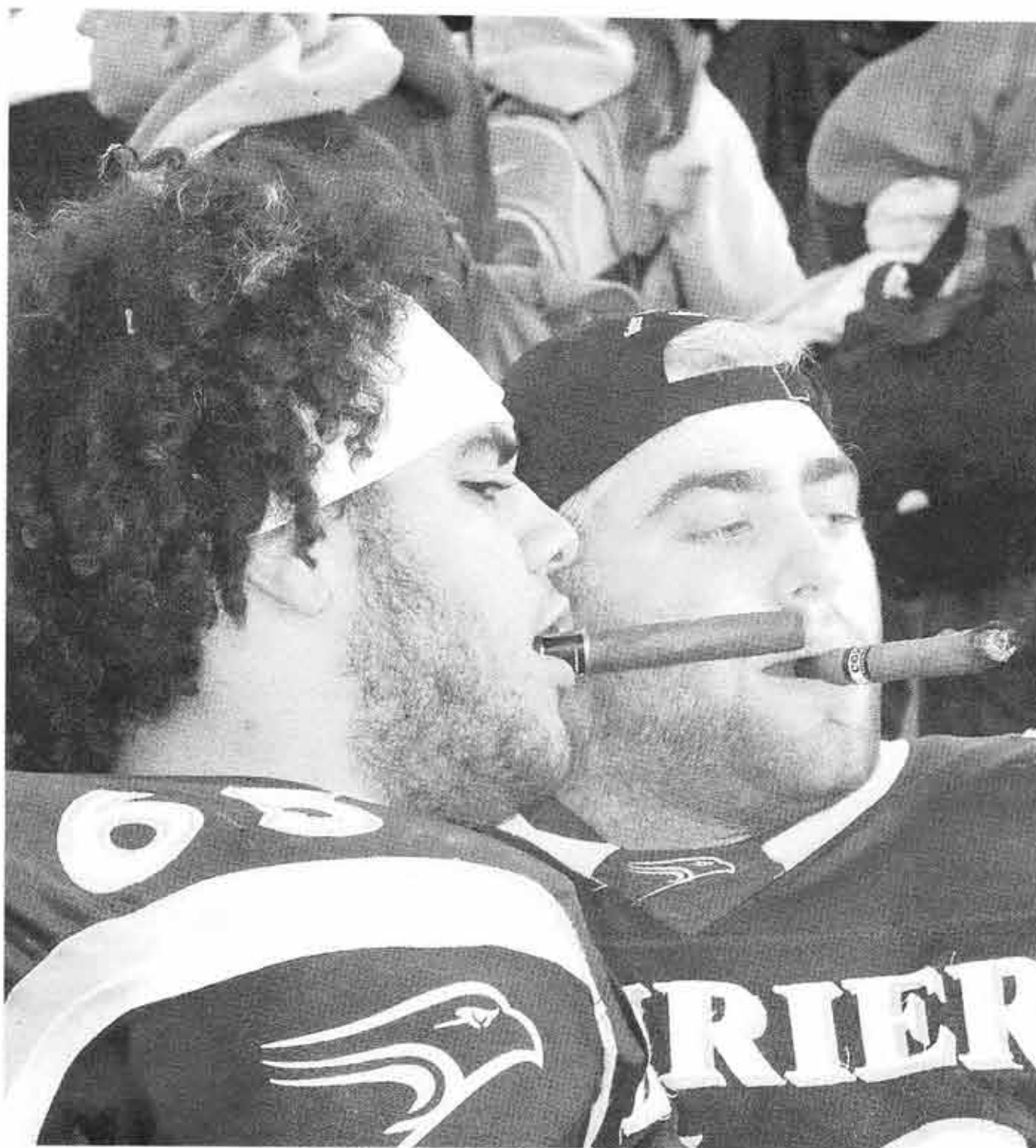
- Jason Benfeitinho
Second-year communications



"I think that should be really heavily subsidized."

- Lisa Heimpel
First-year business

Compiled by Dan Polischuk, photos by Sydney Helland



SPARE SOME CHANGE? - Weston (left) and Labenski want some ice to go along with their smokes.

Hawks play ring toss

- From **FOOTBALL**, cover

For McBride, money is hard enough to come by as it is.

"I paid my own way through school for five years, and I had to wait for OSAP to come just to pay for the deposit for the ring," he says.

Gary Jeffries, head coach of the Golden Hawks, says that there is "no question" his team deserves to receive their rings. But he understands that the university has little financial room to work with for things of this nature.

"Of course it would be wonderful if it could be taken care of, [but] you're looking at a ticket of \$60,000," says Jeffries. Each championship ring costs \$810, and with the football team boasting a contingent of well over 100 players and personnel, it seems unlikely that the Laurier administration would be willing to meet such a heavy pricetag.

WLU president Bob Rosehart concedes that what it comes down to is money.

"There's basically no loose money around," says Rosehart. He points out that for the administration to provide financial assistance for things like championship rings, other school-supported initiatives like the Global Youth Network, which helps to send students abroad, will suffer.

"Which is more important," asks Rosehart. "Giving thirty students a chance to travel or buying a few rings?"

Supporting sports teams to pay for championship tokens is not something alien to the

school however; President Rosehart reveals that he and Dean McMurray recently donated a fair amount to the women's hockey team to pay for their medals, covering about "20 percent of the cost."

At the time of this interview, Rosehart says that a representative of the football team has yet to contact him directly. If they do, the Laurier president will consider helping the team out with their costs.

"We couldn't purchase [the rings] outright, but we'd contribute," says Rosehart.

WLUSU president Dan Robert ran into similar problems when Dan McBride approached him for financial assistance. Robert says that WLUSU couldn't "play favourites" between student groups on campus, but decided that instead of directly funding the players, WLUSU would help them develop methods to fundraise.

By lending them the Turret and sponsoring the marketing materials, Robert hopes the Vanier Cup champions can attract enough people to the event to cover a significant amount of their costs.

The event this Thursday night will feature dance routines by the Hawk Girls and Blaze Girls, as well as local hip-hop artist JD Era. The players are so intent on obtaining their rings that several of them will be auctioning themselves as dates to a special semi-formal, to take place after Reading Week.

"We're doing everything in our power to make this work, and you know what, if we make

enough to get fifty bucks knocked off of every ring, I'm happy," says McBride.

He feels very confident that the Laurier community will respond and throw their support behind their first Vanier Cup championship team in 15 years. The closeness of the student body is something that McBride says attracted the players to attend Laurier in the first place.

"We could have gone to a Western, which is an equal powerhouse, or Mac ... but here, everyone knows everyone - the faculty, the alumni, the students ... it's one big happy family."

McBride is not expecting a handout - despite Wilfrid Laurier University benefiting immensely from the dizzying successes of their football team, McBride does not wish to single out the administration or the alumni for not aiding them.

But McBride, who - along with 15 of his teammates - will be graduating this year, feels that he is a part of something special, a part of history, and this little ring signifies all the sacrifice and emotion involved in doing something like winning a championship.

As the former fullback returns to the fundraising table in the Concourse, where the Vanier Cup is sitting flanked by posters advertising their last-ditch effort, he stops briefly to watch a television that is playing a video of his final football game. There is no question what this ring means to McBride and his teammates.

"Hell yeah, we're getting those friggin' rings," he exclaimed.

News Bites

Nature docs hits local big screen

From February 16 to 18 Princess Twin Cinemas will be showing a documentary about life in northern Canada on the brink of global warming.

This experience, entitled *Arctic Mission*, offers both a geographical and a cultural look at the ever-changing climate of our Far North. Local residents will be able to choose between five different short films.

Lords of the Arctic explores the impact of climate change on the animals of the north. *The Great Adventure* chronicles a five-month ship voyage recording the impact of global warming. *People of the Ice* discusses the impact of climate change on the Inuit people from several generations. *Climate on the Edge* is an objective look at global warming through interviews with leading experts. Finally, *Washed Away* explores two island communities struggling to prevent the disappearance of their land.

John Tutt, an employee at Princess, has the fascinating job of selecting new films to be displayed at the theatre.

Tutt first found out about *Arctic Mission* through the National Film Board of Canada.

"I often look there to see if any new films have been produced," said Tutt.

"I became interested in [*Arctic Mission*] because the topics seemed interesting to me. I'm certain it will have local interest as well."

Local reaction mixed for Polar Jam

Last Friday's Polar Jam at University Stadium was met with mixed reaction by nearby residents.

Betty Pries, a mother of three children under the age of five, was not at all impressed with the sound levels.

"Absolutely it was too loud," she said. "We're not opposed to students. But if they decide to have a loud party like this they should have it at a place where there are no neighbours ... like RIM park," she added.

Long-time Lester Street resident, Doris Buschert, commented that the music "didn't bother her."

"It doesn't happen that often. As long as they don't do any damage," said the 87-year-old.

"I was a kid once too, so I know they want to have fun sometimes," she added with a laugh.

WLUSU names VPs for 2006-2007

WLUSU hired its VPs for next year over the weekend.

Trevor Cresswell has been hired as VP: Human Resources, while next year's VP: Finance will be Mossa Basir. Current vice-chair of the WLUSU BOD Dan Hocking will return as the new VP: Marketing.

Replacing Allan Cayenne as VP: Student Activities will be Lindsay Fleming.

Nicole Gill was named next year's VP: Student Services.

Compiled by Gina Racine, Dan Polischuk, and Adrian Ma

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Polar Jam good in theory, not practice

It was one of those ideas that looked good on paper.

With two universities so close together, a collaboration between Laurier and the University of Waterloo seemed long overdue. And what better way to do it than an all-day concert with some fairly well-known bands and perennial Laurier favourite Bedouin Soundclash?

But, it seems, the devil is in the details. It was the missteps in the execution of the idea that led to an underwhelming and underattended Polar Jam event.

The first problem was the advertising. The Polar Jam ad in *The Cord* informed students (in small letters) that they could buy tickets at the Feds Office (on UW's campus). Nowhere in this ad, in Laurier's student newspaper, did it tell students where they could buy tickets on Laurier's campus.

The second problem may have been the timing. Students are notoriously nocturnal creatures. They like to go to bed late, and get up late. A show that started at noon and ended at 9:00pm (when most students are just getting ready to go out), may not have been the best bet.

The third, and biggest, problem had to do with the in/out policy of the event. The event lasted all day. Not many people want to stand outside all day in the middle of February. More people might have been inclined to attend if they were able to come and go as they pleased, and take periodic trips back home to get warmed up.

Instead, ticket holders who entered and left the venue before 5:00pm found out that they weren't permitted back in. We can see the organizers' reasoning behind this: in and out privileges would have given students the chance to go home and drink for cheap, rather than buy drinks at the event. This thinking may have backfired though, and led to students not returning, and therefore not spending money at the event.

As well, the event didn't earn Laurier any brownie points with residents who live near University Stadium, as there was intense opposition to granting the Unions a by-law exemption for allowing the event to run later. With relations between students and non-student residents already strained, a concert that annoyed area residents for the benefit of a small number of attendees may not have been the best idea.

Polar Jam was a good idea in theory - two schools pooling their resources to try and bring students together for a good time. Next time though, they have to make sure the logistics are well-planned to coincide with students' fickle tastes.

The royal treatment?

The Laurier Golden Hawks' Vanier Cup win brought the school recognition and visibility in the press that no PR campaign could buy.

And now the student athletes who worked so tirelessly to bring home the Cup, and its accompanying glory, are left struggling to pay for the symbol of their achievements alone.

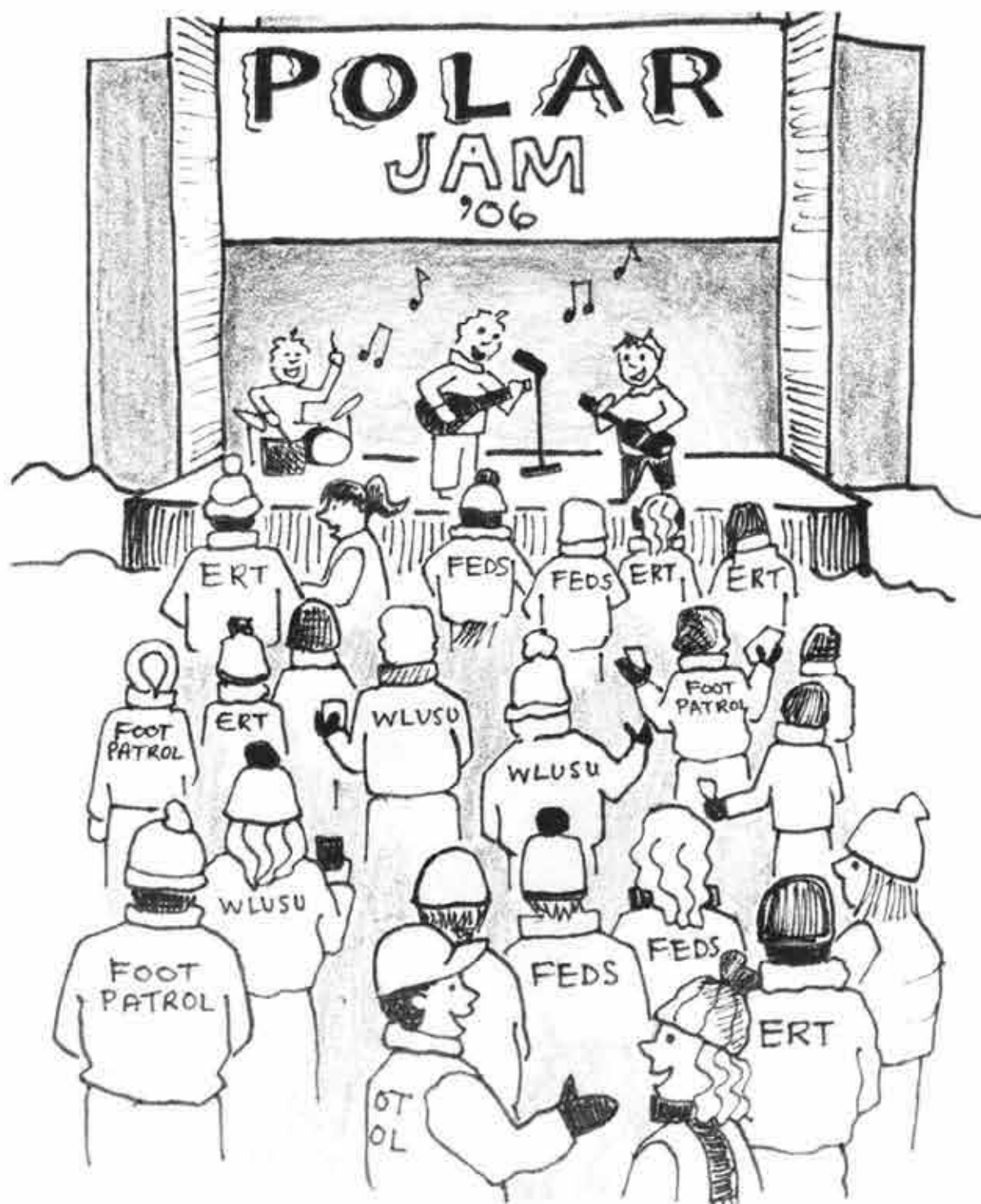
Given the limited resources of the school, it would be out of the question to expect the school to cover the entire cost of the players' Vanier Cup rings; at \$810 each, the entire cost would end up around \$60,000.

But considering the benefits and bragging rights Laurier as a whole has reaped from the win, it's only fair that some assistance should be offered.

WLUSU president Dan Robert was right when he said that we shouldn't "play favourites" among campus groups. And this means that since President Rosehart and Dean McMurray kicked in 20 percent of the women's hockey team's medals last year, they should do the same for the football team.

There are many talented teams and groups on campus, and the administration can't pay for all of their wants. To avoid disparity in the future, there should be a specific policy detailing an across-the-board amount that the school will contribute to championship teams for medals or rings.

This will ensure a level playing field and proper rewards for our deserving athletes that sacrifice a lot to make us proud.



Emilie Joslin

Death and taxes, but mainly death

Students rarely discuss the d-word, but there's no point ignoring the inevitable

EMILIE JOSLIN
Graphics Editor

As students prepare for reading week, whether it be a hedonistic sojourn down south or a relaxing trip back home, I'll be thinking about death.

See, in February of 2004 I held my father's hand as nurses unplugged his comatose body from the machines that were keeping him alive.

I stayed beside him, clinging to his arm, as the blood drained away from his skin. I could recognize my dad's face - maybe a part of me waited in vain for his eyes to open again.

At the same time I knew he was gone, long before I had the chance to say goodbye - before I told him how much I loved him one last time.

After my father died I found myself feeling abandoned; the grief I experienced was a completely foreign feeling. Without his protection from the world I felt frightened to go on living without him.

I had grown up, like most of the privileged students I know, sheltered and free of suffering.

At 20, I was not prepared for the pain - the kind of hurt that others around the world much younger than myself endure every day. I guess I am lucky to have been spared the loss of a loved one until that I was technically a grown-up.

Anyone who has lost a loved one knows how isolating the experience can be, especially for people our age. At this point in our lives, most of us have had little experience with death, making it extremely difficult to discuss.

As students prepare for reading week, whether it be a hedonistic sojourn down south or a relaxing trip back home, I'll be thinking about death.

I found it unbearable to talk about my dad's death with the people around me. I was not only afraid of reliving the pain of watching him die, but of making others feel uncomfortable. My family seldom brings up my dad's name. The past two years have been filled with silence.

A few months before my dad died, a good friend of mine lost

his mother to cancer. After the funeral, I remember feeling completely useless around him - I wanted to be supportive, but I had no idea what to say. The last thing I wanted to do was make him feel worse, so I completely avoided talking about his loss.

Now that I know how hard it is to lose a parent, I wish I had the courage to talk to my friend about his mom. It's hard to find the words to comfort a grieving friend, but any honest gesture helps.

Shying away from death has become the normal and even natural thing to do, but I don't think this behaviour is helping us.

Ignoring death worsens an already painful

experience. The silence makes those that are suffering feel more alone. Encouraging people to be more open about death will make it easier to endure the pain that goes with it. Because at some point we'll all have to deal with death.

After all, there's no escaping it.

letters@cordweekly.com

Liberation must be a joint effort

We can't take Black history out of its "relational contexts" if we want to level the racial playing field, says **Dr. Martha Kuwee Kumsa**



DR. MARTHA KUWEE KUMSA
Community Editorial Board

For those who celebrate it, February heralds Black History Month. Some call it African Liberation Month. The former is rooted in the experiences of Black people in the West and the later in the experiences of continental Africans. Coming to Canada as an African and becoming Black here in Canada, I claim both roots and join those who call it Black Liberation Month.

Liberation resonates with me more deeply as history tends to focus on the past. I have no quarrels with the legacy of the past. Indeed, I believe that the past has a powerful grip on us today and is deeply ingrained in the tomorrow we shape. But when prefaced with "Black", "history" seems to be insulated into a cocoon of Blackness. Is there such a history?

Right now, a debate is raging

among prominent African-Americans over whether or not it's time to dump Black History Month. One side argues that black history is a woven tapestry of American history; history is history, black or white; Black history deserves celebration all year round; it's time we stopped confining it to one month.

The other side argues that Black History Month is the result of Black people's struggle for justice; it is here to inspire Blacks and educate Whites in a world where the playing field is severely skewed against everything black; the reality of continued oppression requires continued celebration of Black History Month.

This rekindles my own long-forgotten passion for a good debate. I do not endorse the notion of homogenizing history but I do want to point out the dangers of deifying black history. It is only when we strip it of its relational context that "Black history" becomes an event in and of itself.

It is to put back the stripped relational context of history that I

prefer the term "liberation." Liberation acknowledges the relations of oppression in the deeply ingrained past at the same time as it shifts our focus to the future.

Within relations of domination, neither Blacks nor Whites are free. The liberation of the one is the liberation of the other.

I fume when I see world powers appropriate the notion of liberation to disguise their agenda of domination. But my heart sinks when I hear some young Canadians say, "Black liberation? Sure! Let them liberate themselves from violence, ignorance, corruption, HIV/AIDS and poverty! Then we can talk as equals. Look at Africa, the poorest continent in the world. Look at Haiti, the poorest nation in the Americas. It doesn't matter where they are; the problem is inherent in Blacks."

On the other hand, Blacks point

the problem back to White racism, slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism.

There are many who believe AIDS was produced in racist labs to kill off Blacks.

This is credulous, given the evidence that some of apartheid South Africa's scientists were trying to produce chemicals that would erase Blacks off the face

of the earth.

Whites locate the problem in Blacks and Blacks give it back to Whites. To me, this shows deeply-troubling "us" and "them" processes of "othering" and denial of responsibility. It is a fact that, as a category, Blacks are structurally marginalized but they did not put themselves in this dire situation.

In a world so intimately interconnected, the responsibility lies neither in Blacks nor in Whites but in their relational history. Within relations of domination, neither Blacks nor Whites are free. The lib-

eration of the one is the liberation of the other.

As future leaders of our world, I invite Laurier students to challenge themselves. It is unfortunate that they have to inherit an unjust world, but it is their responsibility to right the wrong.

I did see a positive beginning this Sunday when I went to the coffeehouse organized by the Laurier Association of Black Students. It was not a big crowd, but it was so uplifting to see a crowd of all colours (not just Blacks and Whites) celebrating together. I pray it won't be long before Whites say, "We're all in this together; your liberation is my liberation."

Dr. Martha Kuwee Kumsa is a former journalist who was imprisoned for ten years in her native country of Ethiopia for her dissenting views.

She is now a professor of social work at Wilfrid Laurier.

Focusing on the benefits of video games

According to a recent study, playing video games might actually be educational, explains **Chris Collie**



CHRIS COLLIE
The Space Between

Focusing can be hard, especially for us university students.

Any physician would plainly tell you that a continued attack of late nights, drinking and malnutrition will never translate into a Garry Kasparov-level of focusing ability.

In fact, such conditions would likely not even reach the Gary Bussey-level of focusing ability.

When you take our lifestyle into account, it's amazing we can even remember our student number, and that's on a good day. Then there are the days when no amount of preparation can combat the haze traversing your mind.

And of course, you have to write an exam that same day. You sit helplessly at your desk, a stinging pain in your head, a reverberating buzz in your ear, and stare blankly ahead.

What can you do to help yourself in this situation? Let's say you have one hour left before a final. What could help get your focus back in check?

The answer, my friends, is video games.

Canadian researchers are discovering that the multitasking and gadget-oriented lifestyles of the young and plugged-in are improving their skills at ignoring distractions, and rapidly switching their attention to a new task. And videogames have the starring role.

In a new study of 100 undergraduates discussed in a recent *Globe and Mail* article, researchers found that video gamers consistently outperformed non-players in a series of intricate mental tests that looked for an ability to focus and identify relevant information within a distracting environment.

It turns out that all of the chaos in *Halo 3* has been providing a by-product of positive mental fine-tuning for its players alongside its entertainment value.

One of the professors involved in the project, psychologist Ellen Bialystok, theorizes that video gamers practice and hone their ability to block out stimuli that are irrelevant to a task at hand when playing, and as games get more complex, it's easy to see this trend continuing.

The theory goes that when the gamers enter the digital world and are bombarded by continual stimuli within a goal-oriented atmosphere that becomes progressively more difficult, they are able to



Contributed Photo

AUTO FOCUS - It seems almost too good to be true, but if a recent study is right, playing video games like *Grand Theft Auto* could actually help you focus better, on schoolwork that is.

translate the focusing-inducing skills gained there into the real world and stay on task better than non-gamers.

What a shame that the only games I own are *Tiger Woods 2005* and an old version of *Gran Turismo*. I never saw much value in spending time in a digital environment where my triumphs were not echoed in the real world. Turns out in a way, I was mistaken ... maybe that's why I always get mid-70s on exams.

This could mean a lot for us as university students looking to ace

our next major final, wouldn't you agree? How many times have you been in the middle of writing an exam and realized that in the last ten minutes all you've thought about is what you need to pack for your upcoming European trip or who you'll invite to your big shaker on Saturday?

If you had only played more *Grand Theft Auto*, staying focused during such occasions would have been a breeze.

Oh, I shudder to think of how many parents have bellowed the words, "No more video games

tonight!" to their children - was this a mistake? It's time for the kids of the world to rise up, and unite!

Should we just combine schoolwork and video games into one master activity? We could be on to something here.

How great is this: next time you're thinking about studying for a round of finals but are concerned about your ability to focus, just toss on the Xbox to prepare. Sweet.

Cutting through Canadian Bacon fat

It's no wonder Americans misunderstand Canada and our ambiguous national culture. Even we don't know how to define ourselves



VERONICA HUGHES
Rant Space

The true north, strong and free, or the forgotten 51st state?

Canada, Soviet Canuckistan, the northern "Blue" State: Canadians aren't the only ones with a confused sense of what our national identity really is.

After spending five days in the Colorado Rockies with other American and Canadian university students for a conference on Canada-US relations, one thing became immediately apparent: Canadians know a lot about America, and they know nothing of Canada.

Ambassadors, Naval, Army and Air Force Commanders, academics, professors and students all came into the conference knowing Canada was up north. That is where the learning curve began.

For myself and four other Laurier political science students, a week of shattering stereotypes and crossing borders was not an easy task.

The token Canadians in each discussion group talked most of the time, simply so the American students had any idea what they should be comparing in the first place. There were so many embedded notions that American students, and even professors, held about Canada it was sometimes hard to set the record straight.

From our immigration policy to social values to military involve-

ment in the Middle East, Americans had no clue why we do what we do.

I realize none of this is particularly surprising. It's a long-running inside joke that Americans know little about Canada. However, when commanders of the American Navy, professors with doctorates in international policy and even well-travelled students are as equally ignorant as those who call *Fox News* legitimate reporting, the size of the ignorance becomes staggering.

The American delegates thought we had an illegal immigration problem, while completely disregarding their issues with Mexican aliens. They commented on our absence in military involvement in the Iraq war, forgetting Canada has been a key

player in the building of a democratic regime there.

The discussion then centred on the softwood lumber issue, which the Americans had not heard of until now. To be fair to the Americans I had the privilege to discuss with, they were all eager to learn more about their neighbour to the north. Like ourselves, they rely heavily on media coverage to transmit information regarding domestic and international issues. If network news does not cover the issue, then it usually slips through the cracks.

At least they were excited to hear former prime minister Joe Clark and Canadian Consul general Michael Fine speak of Canada and its important ties to Americans.

However, the issue that Americans were most concerned

about was Canada's national identity, or lack thereof. They found it shocking that our identity is structured around the ideal of not being American. How can you base an identity around not being something?

How has Canada been able to maintain any sense of nationality in America's shadow? How do citizens feel national pride when they do not have a clear national compass to direct them?

Perhaps this is where the Canadian delegates learned a lesson from the Americans.

Building a strong sense of national identity creates a strong presence in the world. But the overarching question should be: is that what Canadians really want?

letters@cordweekly.com

Olympics a shining light in gloomy world



MARCOS MOLDES
My So-Called Queer Life

The other day I tuned into watch one of my favourite events: the opening ceremonies of the Olympics.

I'm not particularly interested in sports (who am I kidding, I've had no interest in sports since the trauma of high school gym class), much less anything that involves being outdoors in the snow.

My idea of winter sports is walking from my apartment to class in mid-January.

Bearing all this in mind, I have to admit that I'm one of those people who is obsessed with the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics. Any event that manages to incorporate that many

musical theatre influences into its performance should be recognized as a world heritage event. Seriously, the music, the costumes, the choreography - what more could a gay man want?

All kidding aside, beyond all the superficial things I love about the Olympics, I know that I really love them for what they represent.

Apart from being a large sporting event, they are what I would consider a testament to the ability of the human race to overcome its own limitations.

For a brief two weeks, 80 countries from around the world have gathered together for reasons that do not include war. While the values that the event espouses may not always be upheld perfectly, (one need only think of the figure skating scandal of Salt Lake City or the tragedy that surrounded the Olympics in Munich) any event where peace, fair play and excel-

lence are held as values should be recognized as an achievement of the human race.

This year the theme of peace and goodwill was visible throughout the opening ceremonies through the spoken word and musical performances.

As I watched people like Yoko Ono, Peter Gabriel and the Olympic flag bearers participate in the ceremonies I mused about how we need more things like the Olympics.

To me it's something that constantly reminds us of how, regardless of our race, religion, gender or sexuality, we are individuals of something much larger than the categories that divide us.

If we could fathom how people from 80 different cultures have gathered together to celebrate and compete in the spirit of peace and fair play, then the idea of a world without war and a guarantee of



Christopher Pike

COME TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW - Training at the 2006 Olympics.

basic human rights becomes a lot less abstract.

It strikes me that at a time when our failings as a society are manifested through things like the ongoing occupation in Iraq, indifference to the victims of HIV/AIDS and the crude portrayal of the Islamic faith in the Danish media, the Olympics stand as a testimony to how global politics may be far from perfect, but is still a representation of the dream of a world where tomorrow is better than

today.

So while I don't dream of being an athlete nor do I plan to watch the events religiously, I encourage all of us to carry the Olympic message close to us over the next two weeks and, even if just for a moment, remember that while Canada is competing against other countries for status we are also standing in solidarity with our global neighbours and friends.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Togman,

I usually can't wait to read your weekly columns because there's always something in there that I disagree with and I always want to write back. In that case I'd have my own weekly column in the "letters to the editor" section. I found your "Cartoon ignites Muslim furor" article incredibly offending and appalling. First, the Danish newspapers should not have printed those cartoons. You wrote the "newspaper had a right and a duty to print the cartoons."

Excuse me? The newspaper had the right and duty to insult a billion Muslims? Where do you get off? Nobody has the right to insult anyone's religion and beliefs. Religion itself is a very sensitive topic, let alone making fun of the holiest figure in a religion, the Prophet Mohammed. You wrote another article regarding the Iranian President calling the Holocaust a myth. As I recall you were appalled yourself. I don't agree with those comments and the President should've kept those comments to himself. They're very offensive to the entire world and especially to Jewish people. However, calling the Holocaust a myth is a crime yet making fun of Prophet Mohammed is "freedom of speech"? They're both horrible things to say/draw and never should've been done in the first place. Freedom of speech is to be used responsibly, not for being racist. If it's offensive to you then you're all outraged, but if it involves someone else it's freedom of speech? Give me a break.

You wrote, "Europeans regularly defame and mock their own religions and should be free to do the same to others." Do you even live on this earth? *The Cord* wouldn't publish what I'd truly like to say to you. Make fun of your own religion all you want but you don't have the "right" and "duty" to do the same to others.

If you researched the other side of the story you'd be a little more informed. Just a suggestion.

Mitra Hadavi

Cartoons not riot-worthy

First of all there is no reason to believe that a Muslim rule prohibiting the depiction of the Prophet Muhammad would apply to non-Muslims just as the Muslim rule of abstaining from pork or alcohol does not apply to non-Muslims.

The cartoons were not very nice but they definitely weren't riot worthy. The reaction of some to publish their own insulting cartoons (Hitler and Anne Frank in bed together) as well as the response of a government-controlled Tehran newspaper to accept submissions for cartoons about the Holocaust completely miss the point. The argument is that there is a double standard. This might be a good point if it were true; however, the reality is quite different. How many people draw pictures of George Bush, the president of the USA, comparing him to a Nazi or a monkey? The only thing in Europe more common than criticising the USA is criticising Israel. In fact, no one tried to stop the publication of the Hitler and Anne Frank cartoon. No one rioted as a result of its publication and no one has been killed over it. Western media (including *The Cord*) have by and large accepted self-censorship over showing the offending image, despite it being the biggest story of the time, in deference to Muslims.

Another problem with the Iranian accusation of a double standard is that they do not want a world where you

can be free to deny the Holocaust and free to depict the Prophet Muhammad. Ayatollah Ali Khamanei, the Iranian leader, wants a world where no one can make fun of the Prophet Muhammad but people can deny the Holocaust until they are blue in the face.

Ryan Jakubowski

Shame on us

Shame on us for allowing our paper to re-publish that cartoon. The meagre apology posted on the website and taped to the *Cord* stands in itself an embarrassment – I can only hope that WLUSP is not finished apologizing. They seem to think "cultural ignorance" is an appropriate excuse. It isn't and here's why: when covering an issue as politicized and sensitive as the relationship of Islamic religions and terrorism, there's an obligation not to be ignorant of the facts. Facts are the business that newspapers are in. In an issue where two professors were interviewed for a separate article, there is no excuse. In the current climate surrounding these issues, with the communal alienation and demonization being suffered, to allow oneself (when in a journalistic position) to remain "culturally ignorant" smacks of racism. The fact that it was not meant that way is irrelevant – it has never been for the racists to define racism, but for its victims and witnesses to identify and call out.

I intended to circulate a petition calling for the editor of *The Cord* to resign. This idea was met with support from many prominent Laurier students. I have since changed my mind. Here's why: I want to see *The Cord* become a better more inclusive and respectful newspaper. I do not want to 'take it down.'

The current "furor" isn't a freedom of speech issue. Of course *The Cord* had the legal right to re-print the cartoon. This is an issue of respect and professionalism. WLUSP is owned by the students. We have a right to demand that it be a culturally-inclusive newspaper that is respectful of Laurier's diversity. It cannot, at present, claim to be so. When reaction to those cartoons was witnessed worldwide, *The Cord's* editorial staffers were free to comment in accordance with their own beliefs. But, (to my knowledge) only four other papers in the country did the same. We are the only paper, as far as I know, whose editor is defending the action under the veil of "cultural ignorance." Shame on us.

Alex Hundert
FOA Council, Religion & Culture
Department Student Representative

Polar Jam? Polar Shit!

I want to talk about Polar Jam, and mainly how it was a waste of my money. Where do I begin? I arrived at University Stadium at 3:30pm and was disappointed with what I saw. Where were the ice sculptures, vendors and people? The snowboard park was just a pile of snow. Disappointed with what I saw, I left intending to return around 6:00pm and perhaps see some real action, but on my way out I learned that there was no reentry after 5:00pm if you entered before that time. I was essentially discriminated against because I came earlier than 5:00pm. If anything, I should have been rewarded for attending that shitfest early. I don't know what I expected from Polar Jam, but it was certainly better than what I saw, unless ALL of the vendors, ice sculptures and attendees showed up at

5:00 and I truly did miss out.

Andrew Cavalier

No more momma jokes

I am emailing to express my disgust at the *Cord* ad on page 24 of the Feb 1, 2006 *Cord*. The ad states "Did your mom refuse to put your drawings up on the fridge, telling you how much you shamed her? You show that bitch... be an artist for *The Cord*!"

I can assure you that my mother is not a bitch; in fact, she is quite kind, considering that by covering my tuition fees this semester she is paying for *The Cord*. Most of us would not have made it as far as university if it were not for the continuous support of our mothers. Thus they do not deserve to be insulted by this ad. I would like to think that by university, we have overcome the typical pubescent parent-hating way of talking.

I understand that the ad was not intended as an insult, but it is an insult. I hope that it is not printed again. Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Romagnoli

Pseudo-lesbianism rooted in voyeurism

I am a spoken word and hip-hop artist. While at Laurier I wrote one of my first songs which contained the line, "Let's not exploit lesbians for titilation/Or make 70-minute records solely about frustration."

With this in mind, I became concerned with the "Laurier Bachelorette" feature which offered up 'straight' Lyndsay Nicholson as a potential date for equally 'straight' Christina Cravero. The suggestion here is that because the two women are so good looking (given), sexual "sparks" will inevitably fly. This sounds more like a Labbat Blue commercial than an amusing or enticing joke. Instead, it reads like it is rooted in male voyeurism and fantasy. Despite the media's constant pushing, it is NOT every male's fantasy to see two women going at it and it is certainly not acceptable to play on this misconception in a newspaper that can (and should) work to portray accurate depictions of lesbianism.

It seems that our media is only comfortable with lesbian portrayals that involve straight women. This not only displays ignorance, but also the limited level of comfort our society has with homosexuality. I would challenge *The Cord* put 'real' lesbianism on display and not this titillating falsity - you would certainly have my support at that point. Until then, that 70-minute record of frustration just got closer to being released.

Jon Corbin

Playground politics

It was with much disappointment that I read about the actions taken by the Laurier Campus Conservatives in "Throwing sand in Laurier's box" by Carly Beath in the February 8 issue of *The Cord*. In my time at Laurier I have always been impressed and proud of the civility and respect expressed by the various clubs on campus that must compete for student interest, however, the actions taken by the Campus Conservatives to advocate sabotage and cause financial burden to the LSPiRG team were deplorable and completely irresponsible. While clubs may disagree with other clubs on campus, the actions taken by the Campus Conservatives constitute nothing more than playground politics and immatu-

rity and by no means contribute to a positive relationship among the various clubs on campus. I sincerely hope that the club president and executive will extend a very public and deserved apology to the LSPiRG team.

Will Snowball

Election thank yous

On behalf of the Elections and Referenda Committee and the Elections Executive Committee, we wanted to thank everyone for their participation in the recent WLUSU and WLU elections. However, there are a few groups in particular that deserve a special mention.

To Brandon Currie and Dr. David Docherty, thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules and moderating the Waterloo Open Forum. You were both very professional in your approaches and your efforts were much appreciated on our part.

To the *Cord Weekly* staff, thank you for the excellent coverage you gave the elections. Not only was the coverage fair and objective, the elections pullout and the features that you ran were of a very high-calibre, and we look forward to the same sort of coverage in the future.

To Shelagh Pepper, thank you for all of the hard work that you put in towards making scantron ballots a success. You allowed us to produce the results earlier than any time in recent history, and your efforts in staying until after midnight on E-day were far more than we could've asked.

To the candidates, thank you for your efforts in making this election fair. You gave the student body the ability to choose based on the issues and what you all had to say, and ran some excellent campaigns.

And finally, but certainly not least, thank you to all of the volunteers who made sure that election day and the days leading up to it went off without a hitch. The efforts that you all gave us allowed us to take some stress off of our backs, knowing that things were in good hands. We really can't thank you enough.

Thanks again Laurier, and don't forget to vote in 2007!

Dan Hocking, Chair of ERC
Kiran Sandhu, Chief Returning Officer

Planned Parenthood

Thirty-four years ago a group of staff and students from the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University got together to discuss the need for an organization to provide Sexual Health information within the community. From those meetings so long ago Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region was born.

And now that same Planned Parenthood may have to close its doors as of March 31, 2006.

PPWR relies on donations from community members (individuals and some businesses) for over 80 percent of its budget. In spite of a strong and loyal donor base, revenues have not kept up with current expenses. Reduction in staff hours has been supplemented by the contribution of dedicated trained volunteers, many of whom are drawn from the universities.

The loss of PPWR will have a significant impact on the provision of sexual health services in this community. In the past year alone, PPWR has reached over 2500 youth in their group and theatre education programs and has served over 1300 individuals in the counselling program. It may surprise some readers to note that many of our

counselling clients are university students who seek out PPWR because of their non-judgmental, pro-choice philosophy.

But it's not over yet. There is still time to help. On Wednesday February 22 at 7:30 PPWR will be hosting a free production of their original play, *Sexploration*, in the Humanities Theatre. Everyone is welcome to come and see first hand the power of sexual health information and the importance of this wonderful organization in our community.

Donations will be gratefully excepted.

For more information please call 743-9360 or email educator@ppwr.on.ca

Emily Waldron

Interpretations of Body Worlds 2

When I went to see Body Worlds I saw art students and medical students, some with pens fluttering, some just observing. I don't know if they felt they had been educated, but I felt like I had been educated. I had never seen the human body displayed in such a manner.

One of the reasons I liked the 'skier' and the 'skateboarder' was that I got to see a different visual of what is going on inside our bodies (for example when I'm skiing), rather than that standard 'Pepto Bismol' tube and circle. I suppose that's where the "art gallery feeling" comes from: from the "creative positioning" - I personally wasn't trying to make the exhibit be art or be science (although the process of plastination developed by Gunther von Hagen is a big scientific feat in of itself). I learned things (visual knowledge) and the day stands out for me.

The exhibit didn't strike me as being disrespectful; it struck me as being respectful and a very human experience.

I also heard people making comments about having never seen so many "balls"; neither had I, but I also had never seen so many exposed hands before. The 'balls' comments seemed childish in this context and reflective of an unwillingness to understand (I say 'in this context' because balls can be quite funny!).

I felt like the recent article had a lack of respect by criticizing these people's decision to be a part of this exhibit. I'm not sure if the author of this article read the letters from the participants (the letters that were blown up to three or four times their normal size and hanging on the walls) explaining why they felt like this exhibit was so important and why they wanted to do this. The inclusion of these letters was important to me as it made the 'exhibits' more than mere exhibits (as the author claimed that what she was looking at was 'dead guys that have been shot up with chemicals, flayed, posed in creepy positions...'); to say this is to miss much of what this exhibit means.

Parker Nixon

Letter Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12pm Tuesday on disk, or via e-mail at letters@cordweekly.com with the subject heading of 'Cord letter'. Letters must be typed or easily legible and may not exceed 350 words. The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part.

The Cord reserves the right not to publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

Hawks anxious for playoffs



Matt Symes

STONED COLD - Second-year forward Samantha Cully was stymied on this break, but got her revenge with two goals in the next night's 3-0 win over Brock.

Although they ran away with the OUA's top spot long ago, the Hawks try to stay focused from game to game while talk of mid-March nationals in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, swirls around the defending champs

- From **WOMEN**, cover

"This was a great game for [Wielgosz] to bounce back," explained Osborne, who proudly added that she "never wavered, never had any confidence issues."

"Tonight, I was more relaxed," explained Wielgosz. "Last night I couldn't stop a beach ball and tonight, I was playing the 2-on-0s and just challenging better."

"This is on the path that I want to be right now - coming out, playing well, dominating play, and hopefully it takes us into playoffs and into OUA's."

Indeed, it seems the playoffs can't come soon enough for the Hawks who, at 19-3-1, long ago clinched the OUA's top spot.

"There's a lot of pressure on us 'cause everyone's expecting us to go so far," notes second-year sniper Samantha Cully, who broke out with a pair of goals against Brock. "And it's also going to our head. We're forgetting to play the game that we're in right now and concentrating on the future," she admitted.

It was this frightening trend that

led Osborne to challenge his squad in the intermission of the Brock game, forcing each line to set lofty goals for themselves in terms of shots on net. The result? The Hawks outshot the Badgers 49-20 en route to snapping Brock's five-game undefeated streak.

"There's a lot of pressure on us 'cause everyone's expecting us to go so far. And it's also going to our head. We're forgetting to play the game we're in right now."

- Samantha Cully, second-year forward

More importantly, the final six minutes gave Laurier some breathing room as they netted a pair of insurance tallies.

First, rookie forward Andrea Ironside notched her seventh of the year, sniping the top left corner from just inside the blue line to catch Brock goalie Angie

Mallory napping.

Soon after, Cully scored her second of the game, tucking a pass from third-year forward Lyndsey Parissenti neatly inside the left post.

Despite the win over Brock, a probable semi-final opponent, who was mysteriously playing without veteran Kate Allgood (far and away the OUA's top scorer), Saturday's loss cost Laurier the number one national ranking.

With a pair of weekend wins, the Alberta Pandas, who entered the weekend tied with Laurier for the top spot in Canada, extend their undefeated streak to 20 games since an opening day loss to Regina.

Osborne doesn't seem too worried, though he had been hoping to secure his team every possible advantage for the national title. "I don't really care if it's one or two," shrugged Osborne. "There's not

anybody we're afraid of."

"Our conference is just much stronger," he added. "If Queen's, and Toronto, and us, and Guelph, and Brock ... were playing out there in the Alberta conference, they'd have three or four losses too."

For now, the Hawks have just one game remaining against the York Lions before the OUA Final Fours in St. Catharines. Coach Osborne has also scheduled a few exhibition games to keep the women sharp and figure out his strongest lineup, which seems to be anchored by the scoring punch of Ironside, fellow rookie Lauren Barch and assistant captain Laurissa Kenworthy, a trio that accounts for nearly a third of the team's goals.

Overall, though, Sunday's win seems to have the team back on track. "It was a nice 3-0 tidy shutout," said Osborne. "That's kind of the way we play."

If Wielgosz can continue her strong play in net, the Hawks will be a force to contend with in the post-season, rankings be damned.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's Basketball

Hawks clinch fifth straight playoff berth

After a disheartening 72-65 loss at Windsor last Wednesday, the up-and-down Hawks rebounded with a 71-67 win over the 3-17 Western Mustangs on Saturday to clinch a spot in the OUA playoffs. Wade Currie led the attack in both games with 26 and 21 respectively. With two games remaining against Brock and Waterloo, the Hawks are 10-10 and sit sixth in the OUA West.

Women's V-ball

Ladies look to peak for playoffs

With a 3-1 win over UW in their final game of the season last Saturday, Laurier finished with a respectable 13-6 record. Third-year left side Danielle Walker again led the Hawks, who meet the 14-5 McMaster Marauders in OUA quarterfinal action on Saturday afternoon, with 16 kills.

Men's Volleyball

Men take strides, but still miss playoffs

The Hawks lost their last two matches of the season over the weekend to strong squads from Toronto and Ryerson, both by 3-1 scores. Still, the team's 6-14 record was a marked improvement over years gone by and the young squad shows promise.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Feb 16 - Feb 22, 2006

02/12/06

W Hockey 3, Brock 0

02/11/06

W Hockey 2, Queen's 4

M Hockey 5, York 4

W Basketball 56, Western 57

M Basketball 71, Western 67

W Volleyball 3, Waterloo 1

M Volleyball 1, Ryerson 3

02/10/06

M Volleyball 1, Toronto 3

02/09/06

M Hockey 2, Guelph 6

02/08/06

W Basketball 86, Windsor 62

M Basketball 65, Windsor 72

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02/15/06

M Basketball vs Brock

7:00 PM, Athletic Complex

02/18/06

W Hockey vs York

7:30 PM, Waterloo Rec Complex

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Wade Currie
Men's Basketball

Meaghan McGrath
Women's Basketball

www.laurierathletics.com



Jordan Jochen

Truly a Golden Hawk

Cord Sports sits down with Laurier's undisputed queen of the pool, Kristy MacLennan

MARK D. HOPKINS
Sports Writer

An often overshadowed varsity athlete is poised to leave Laurier Athletics this April, but not without leaving her mark. Kristy MacLennan, a fourth-year communications major and star of the Golden Hawk swim team, has one more feat to conquer before bidding adieu to the purple and gold as she enters the CIS championships in two weeks time.

With an impressive resume of medals entering this year, including a bronze in the 200m butterfly at nationals last year, MacLennan was able to capture two additional bronze medals in the 100m and 200m butterfly OUA championships this past weekend. Continuing to impress, she topped off the weekend with a gold in the 200m individual medley and also received an award recognizing her achievements over the past four years.

Second-year Hilary Jackson and rookie Dave Hughes also nabbed medals for Laurier, with a bronze and gold respectively, and will join MacLennan at nationals.

MacLennan took a few minutes out of her busy schedule to talk with *Cord Sports*.

Q From a personal and team perspective, were you satisfied with the results from the OUA championships this past weekend?

Kristy MacLennan: Yeah, I was really happy. I got a gold medal and an achievement award. I didn't expect either of those. Our team did a lot better than we had

in the past. They got more second swims as a team.

Q You had a great showing at the CIS national championships one year ago, winning bronze. Do you feel any pressure to replicate that performance, or do you place any expectations on yourself?

KM: I try not to place any expectations just because every year is different and people that go are different. It would be great to get another medal, but I try to think of it as a completely separate event from last year.

Q In a setting where the likes of football and basketball garner most of the student and media attention, is there a level of frustration towards that at all?

KM: It's a little bit frustrating just because we work extremely hard and we don't get the kind of recognition that they do. But at the same time, it's sort of understandable. It doesn't draw the same crowds that the other sports do. It doesn't quite have as much of a commercial attraction factor. We try and get as much attention as we can.

Q How do you prepare for competition other than simply practicing in the pool?

KM: Before the big meets, we actually do less working out and try to rest more - a little bit less partying, no drinking. Sleep more. Try not to eat as much junk food.

Q You've had a very successful tenure at Laurier. What's next for

you? Do you see swimming in your near and distant future?

KM: I'm actually retiring after this year, as far as amateur sport in Canada. In a few years, I'd consider a Masters. I've had a really good career, so I'm ready to move on.

Q What do you see yourself doing ten years down the road?

KM: I figure I'll be involved in it in some way, as a leisurely thing. Hopefully I'll have a job that I enjoy and have a family, see some of the world at some point. Just having a more normal life, I guess.

Q Did you ever think that you would win the amount of medals that you have, both provincially and nationally, at Laurier?

KM: I had originally always thought I'd be going to school in the States, so I kind of really hadn't thought of Canadian medals a lot. When I got here, I was actually very surprised to win national medals.

KRISTYFACTS

Beer, liquor, or wine?
Wine

A good book or a good movie?
A good movie

A pub or a club?
Depends on the day

Winter or summer?
Summer

SUV or sports car?
Sports car

McGrath leaving Laurier with rich OUA legacy

Guard wins MVP and breaks career scoring record

JOE TURCOTTE
Sports Writer

Only days removed from a historic weekend, in which she broke the OUA women's basketball career regular season scoring record, Golden Hawks' guard Meaghan McGrath remains humble, if not dismissive, of her accomplishment.

"It's exciting, I'm happy about it," she smiled before Monday's practice, as the Hawks prepared for their first-round playoff game in London tonight. "I'm trying not to think about it though.... I'm focusing on Western."

In her four years at Laurier, McGrath has amassed an impressive 1369 points in only 85 regular season games. While her 14-point performance versus Western on Saturday was not enough to defeat the Mustangs, it sufficed to break the all-time record held by York's Nastassia Subban.

Entering her final regular season game in purple and gold, McGrath knew that the record loomed, but wasn't too concerned about it.

"I didn't really want to think about it," shrugged McGrath. "Thinking about it probably would've made me a lot more nervous, so I tried to push it out of my head."

Luckily, her record-setting points were scored early in the game, leaving little time for any stubborn nerves to boil to the surface. With a first-half free throw, McGrath etched her name into OUA history.

"It was neat. When I scored they actually stopped the game and did a little presentation," a genuinely surprised McGrath gushed.

While the record-setting events of this past weekend haven't seemed to sink-in yet, McGrath looks to the future. First up is tonight's OUA West quarterfinal at Western. Considering how close these two teams have played each

other this season - with Laurier losing two closely-contested battles by a combined total of just four points - McGrath is optimistic that her OUA career might be extended for at least one more game.

"I'm excited to play this game," explains McGrath. "I know we lost on Saturday, but that was in the last few seconds, so you never know."

When this season does come to an end, it looks like it will be the last for McGrath as a Golden Hawk. With teacher's college applications pending, it seems that a fifth year of padding her record is a long shot.

"I applied to Windsor, Western and U of T," said the Hawks undisputed on-court leader. "I'm still thinking about going over to Europe to play for a bit, but we'll see what happens. So it doesn't look like I'll be back, but we'll see."

Reflecting back on her years at Laurier, McGrath attributes her record to good coaching and teammates.

"They let me shoot a lot. I guess I'm a shooter. That's the role I've played. I've worked hard though - I'm happy about that."

That's an understatement. Entering the school as a straight shooter, McGrath has improved in all facets of the game, this year finishing second in the province with 19.32 points and three steals per game. That was more than enough to secure not only her first ever first team OUA all-star nod, but was also honoured yesterday as the OUA West Player of the Year for her efforts in leading Laurier to a respectable 11-11 record.

McGrath's future, much like many of her graduating peers, remains uncertain, but few other outgoing Hawks have such a lengthy list of accomplishments to their credit, topped by the prestigious OUA scoring record.

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Wounded Hawks still have a lot of fight left

Torrid 8-3 finish secures first-round bye and divisional title for injury-plagued Hawks

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

If anything, there was more relief than euphoria emanating from Laurier's men's hockey team locker room after they wrapped up a successful regular season this past Saturday night.

Having survived an intense second half of the year and what appeared to be a potentially season-ending injury in the finale, the team was more than happy to walk out of the rink knowing they have a first-round bye entering the playoffs.

The week off comes as a reward for capturing the Mid-West divisional title, their first since OUA hockey re-aligned in 2001.

Asked how much of a boost the high seeding will give the fatigued team, captain Richard Colwill said it was "awesome," especially winning it in his last year of eligibility.

"It's great to have that momentum going into the second round," he explained.

Head coach Steve Martell understands the importance of the time off for his players to heal up.

"It's nice to have the bye," he said. "Certainly, we've been working hard since September 1, and having that first-round bye is the goal that we set at the start of the year."

"It gives us a chance to heal up

and to physically prepare and mentally prepare for the second round," he added.

One player in need of recuperation is third-year centre and solid face-off man, Matt Grennier, who needed to be helped off the ice after a jarring, but clean, open-ice hit in the second period of Saturday night's game against York, which WLU won 5-4.

"It's his ACL and he's not feeling the greatest," commented Martell. "It'll be a little bit of time for recovery, but he'll be okay [for the playoffs]."

Considering the team went on a torrid pace to end the schedule, going 8-3 in their final 11 games, including a five-game winning streak and upsets of highly-ranked Western and Waterloo squads, Colwill isn't too concerned about cooling off too much in the layoff.

"You do feel like that; you do just want to keep going and going, but it's definitely going to help us out."

"There's a lot of guys that are injured, playing through injuries. This time's going to really help us get back to full strength," he commented.

When the team does get back to playing competitive hockey on February 22, Martell believes that, barring any setbacks akin to the loss of their captain in last year's series against Waterloo, it will be the balance they have in the line-

up that will give them a better chance.

"This year's team, I think we have a little more depth, a little more balanced scoring," explained Martell. "And we have a really committed group of guys for two years now that have bought into our team's system."

Colwill agreed.

"I think we've got four solid lines – that's been really big for us," the captain noted. "Everybody that's been able to get into the lineup and play, has played well ... as well as the solid goaltending we've had."

With the nationally-ranked UW Warriors heavy favourites against the sixth-seeded Brock Badgers, things could very well end up with the Hawks facing their University Avenue rivals for a second consecutive year.

Well, that's just fine by the Hawks, who were eliminated by a 2-1 series loss last year. A chance for redemption "would be awesome," said Colwill.

"It would definitely be a great battle for sure."

The opponent is out of their hands, though. For now, these wounded Hawks are content to rest up and get healthy before making a determined playoff push.

Had to be done.



Write Cord Sports.



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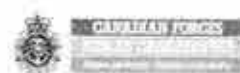
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 Head Lifeguard - Full-time May 1st - August 31st
 Athletic Complex Recreation / Facility Assistant - Full-time May 1st - August 31st
 Golden Hawk Children's Sports Camp Coordinator - Part-time May/June, Full-time July/August
 Golden Hawk Sports Camp Counsellors - Full-time hours late June - late August
 Hawk's Desk Attendant / Lifeguard - Full-time Hour Positions
 Hawk's Desk / Fitness Centre Attendants - Part-time Positions
 Lifeguards - Part-time Positions
 Climbing Wall Instructors - Part-time Positions

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL/WINTER 2006/07 **COORDINATOR STUDENT LEADER POSITIONS - DUE FRIDAY MARCH 10th, 2006**

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
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| Assistant Head Lifeguards (2) | Special Interest Program Coordinator |
| Climbing Wall Coordinator | Recreation Assistant |
| Intramural Coordinator | Assistant Intramural Coordinator |
| Basketball Event Coordinator | Volleyball Event Coordinator |
| Hockey Event Coordinator | Stadium Attendant Coordinator |
| Concession Coordinator | |

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GOLDEN HAWKS

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The Modern Age: 1976-1986



MORE PROFESSIONAL - The Cord's first

KRIS COTE
Cord Historian

At the turn of the decade, students told *The Cord Weekly* that they felt that the 1980s would be much different than the 1970s. A resurgent conservative tendency would fix the social ills of the previous decade, they believed, or as second-year history student Diane Gallinger put it, "we may be forced to rethink some of our values."

Many of the debates that arose in this decade bear a striking resemblance to the issues of today. Women's rights, equality, gay rights and rising tuition were discussed both then and now.

At the same time, in nearly every issue of *The Cord* there loomed the dark cloud over the future. Nuclear annihilation appeared a very real threat and job prospects were bleak. In such a situation, what was the value of a university education, mused *The Cord*. But unlike the previous generation who turned to radical solutions to solve their problems, students of this decade embraced a decidedly more conservative outlook.

A period of professionalization

Having emerged from its radical stage intact, *The Cord* took a more moderate approach in its editorials and news coverage in this decade.

It appears that activities at WLU were similarly moderated, as a November 13, 1975 editorial complained that "Life around Laurier is going on in the usual fashion these days, not much of anything is going on of any consequence".

By March 18, 1976, *The Cord's* editor lamented that "It is getting to be a terrible chore to turn out some kind of nonsense to fill this space every week."

To compensate, the entertainment and sports sections of the newspaper were expanded, and a page was dedicated to poetry. With this added content, the size of *The Cord* ballooned, and 20-page issues became the norm. Content from Canadian University Press (CUP) was also effectively used to report on issues outside the means of *The Cord*, but which still affected students.

As the decade progressed, *The Cord* developed into a more professional newspaper, losing its student rag persona in the process.

In Feb. 1979, an agreement was signed between WLUSU and WLUSP, distancing the relationship between the two organizations and ensuring that the Union could not influence content.

Content also became much more professional, and beginning in 1983, the editor-in-chief (EIC) became a paid position.



While radicals dominated discourse in the previous decade, from 1976-1986 Laurier came full circle and went back to its conservative roots. While *The Cord* was busy becoming a more professional student paper, an economic recession, the threat of nuclear annihilation and those pesky Communists kept things less than mundane

Courtesy of Wilfrid Laurier University Archives and Special Collections

FUN WITH WATER (AGAIN) - In a throwback to frosh initiations of the past, the traditional 'water drop' welcomed new students to WLU.



First colour cover (left) was part of the paper's improvement. Meanwhile, cartoons became an popular form of expression in *The Cord* throughout the decade, also becoming more professional.

As Editor Jackie Kaiser argued in 1984, "the benefit of paying *The Cord* editor a full-time salary goes beyond the potential improvements for the newspaper. It means a significant and much-needed improvement in working conditions for the entire *Cord* staff."

The issue even received the attention of the national press, and was covered in the *Toronto Star*. The decision was reversed in the following summer, though editorial comment was reserved for the "undemocratic nature" of the decision rather than the issues themselves.

Debate on the issue was sparked again in 1983 when a number of editorials and letters argued whether or not the bible supported homosexuality or condemned it. But throughout the decade, *The Cord* remained ambiguous on the issue of gay rights.

Communists invade U of W

The Cord remained fairly conservative in its outlook throughout this decade, but it took an interest in the developments at the University of Waterloo between the student federation and its school's official newspaper, *The Chevron*.

The issue began on October 7, 1976, after *The Chevron* was shut down by the federation of students for supposedly being infiltrated by the Anti-Imperialist Alliance, a front organization for the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). While *The Cord* didn't approve of the content or editorial line of *The Chevron*, an editorial denounced its suppression as a matter of free speech.

With *The Chevron* shut out of its office, the *Free Chevron* was established and the newspaper fought with the federation of students over funding. At one point, *The Cord* reported that fist-fights literally broke out between members of the *Free Chevron* and the federation of students.

The issue stretched out for several years, but eventually a group of students broke away from the *Free Chevron*, formed the *Imprint*, and won recognition as the official newspaper of the University of Waterloo.

Summarizing the controversy, a January 17, 1980, editorial mused that "In a conservative place like WLU, there isn't much room for highly vocal Marxist-Leninists. But what we do have is a ringside seat giving us a good view of Communists in action."

Nuclear doomsday

"Will we survive until 2000?" and "Alcok predicts WWII by year 2000" read *The Cord's* headlines on February 4 and October 28 of 1982. These headlines represented the attitude which prevailed

throughout the decade, in which there was a growing fear of nuclear war and its inherent global destruction.

The issues of deterrence vs. disarmament were debated *ad infinitum* without a clear consensus ever being reached. On November 17, 1983, *The Cord* asked students how long they believed it would take for nuclear war to break out, and three out of the five serious answers stated that this would occur before the year 2000.

The nuclear dilemma came to a crescendo on November 24, 1983, following the broadcast of the made-for-TV movie *The Day After*. The film, which depicts a bleak future for humanity following a nuclear war, prompted a new sense of activism in *The Cord* and at Laurier.

"Consider carefully what your role might be as a concerned and able citizen of this world," an editorial begged, adding that "If you were the least bit glad to have a world to wake up to this morning, then do something to make sure that its still there five years from now."

Ironically, at the same time as concerns over student safety dominated the pages of *The Cord*, a man threw himself out of a seventh-story window of the library.

The results of an impromptu survey conducted among 200 students by a psychology class were printed in the following issue of *The Cord*, and they revealed student reaction to the film and their opinions on the nuclear issue. While a majority of students were in support of bi-lateral disarmament prior to watching the film, most respondents experienced fear, horror and terror at the depictions in *The Day After*. As well, a majority believed that the film would bring greater awareness to nuclear issues.

Groups campaigning against nuclear buildup received increased support and coverage in *The Cord*, and in February 1984 WLU also lent its support to the peace movement. While noting that this was a very rare occurrence, *The Cord* congratulated the Union for taking a stance on an issue that existed beyond the confines of WLU.

A bleak future for WLU students

The most pervasive and dominant topic of this decade was that of the state of the Canadian economy and the lack of jobs for gradu-

ates and students during the summer.

In March of 1977, *The Cord* reported that of the nearly 200,000 students expected to enter into the workforce, 10.2 percent of them would strike out and remain unemployed.

By the end of this decade, the employment situation for grads remained the same. The recession was really a depression, students were told, and it was leading to a 'lost generation' who "feel the country doesn't need them and they aren't necessary."

While university enrolment had increased throughout the decade, *The Cord* explained that this was merely the result of the economic situation; the government favoured education to keep the unemployed occupied, and students favoured school over menial jobs or unemployment.

Declining educational relevancy?

Despite rising enrolment rates, the value of a university education was increasingly called into question in the pages of *The Cord*. As was reported on January 24, 1984, "The major increases (in unemployment), in percentage terms, have occurred in post-secondary people." This situation, combined with the national recession, had earlier led *The Cord* in September 1976 to question

whether too much was being spent on students in a time of national economic crisis, concluding that fewer students should be admitted to the system.

Besides questioning its relevancy, *The Cord* also queried the notion that university was part of a grand design to placate and isolate students. "This deprecation [a result of university education] of experience eats away the basis from which students feel responsibility and concern for others," *The Cord* argued on September 25, 1975. Furthermore, the entire system was "anti-personal, politically reactionary and morally bankrupt."

Despite this assessment of the university system, Laurier continued to grow throughout this decade, becoming, to the chagrin of *The Cord*, a middle-sized school.

'Fiscal fascism'

On February 5, 1976, an editorial argued that students didn't pay enough for university, and that since they did not make the necessary sacrifices, government funding should be decreased.

The wish came true, as tuition increased throughout the decade. *The Cord* quickly transformed its opinion and began to lament for the loss of university accessibility.

Tuition was \$588 in 1976, but had risen to \$1,130 by 1984. Moreover, students paid a greater proportion of tuition in regard to government funding, and OSAP grants had largely been transformed into loans.

Outrage for rising tuition prices was directed against the school's administration and the provincial and federal governments. The economic policies of prime minister Pierre Trudeau were universally unpopular in *The Cord*, and he was scapegoated for all the financial woes of the student.

Paralleling recent developments, in 1981 the Harry Fischer Report on the Future Development of Universities was presented to the provincial government. The basis of the report called for increased funding so as to increase accessibility and quality. But two years later, *The Cord* lamented, the report had been all but ignored by the government and the problems which it had identified had only gotten worse.

"The implications are painfully clear; the Tories believe that education is a commodity which can be bought and sold, and today's youth are being treated like worthless stock," the paper explained on October 6, 1983.

Beyond the doom and gloom, progress was made

Despite the doom and gloom of the decade, progress was made for both *The Cord* and the student body. The paper became increasingly professionalized and also more independent. This latter issue would come to the forefront in coming years.

At the same time *The Cord* was used as a vehicle to enhance student life. A rash of attacks, rapes and crimes throughout the early 1980s led to increased awareness over issues of security, and *The Cord* pushed WLU to form some sort of 'escort service' to walk students home at night.

Traffic problems, specifically at University and Hazel, were continually highlighted by *The Cord*, and the issue became popular among student politicians.

Ironically, at the same time as concerns over the physical safety of students dominated the pages of *The Cord*, a man threw himself out of a seventh-story window of the library. While the man lived, a greater awareness of mental anxieties also began to develop.

Enjoying Cord History as much as us? Look for part seven of the series, due out March 15.

The issues of today

While *The Cord* had previously advocated for women's rights, it was not until the later 1970s that the paper moved beyond feminist rhetoric and began to explore specific issues. Workplace equity was a contentious issue, and articles both for and against women's role in the business world were debated.

For instance, on February 26, 1976, a CUP article reported that women earned 60 percent of what men made in similar jobs, and criticized the government for not taking action to correct this situation. Yet, on November 27, 1980 an editorial seemingly justified this disparity by arguing that women could not be as good as men in the business world because they lacked aggressiveness and competitiveness.

Often, individuals make the greatest change in *Cord* content, as was the case in 1983-84 when Jackie Kaiser was EIC. Numerous editorials lamented the way which women were treated, a feature on eating disorders was printed and a special section was created to commemorate International Women's Day. While Kaiser was repeatedly accused of stirring up controversy, many of the arguments that she made would still be relevant in today's *Cord*.

The issue of gay rights at WLU came to a head on January 21, 1982, when WLU voted against recognizing Gay Laurier, a campus club for gay students.

Student President Joe Viet argued that "I don't believe a club should be based on sexual orientation," and that "I'm not sure our campus is ready for a gay club." Homosexuals were urged to instead join the gay club at the University of Waterloo.

While the issue was not addressed in editorials, lively debate was carried on through letters to the editor. Supporters of the club used this medium to refute the Union's decision and raise awareness of the discrimina-

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D.J. DEMERS
Sex and the University

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Like any business, your aim is to sell your product, and there is no better way than to utilize the four trusty P's of the marketing mix: Product, Price, Place and Promotion.

You are obviously the business, and your companionship is the product that you're selling. You're not actually "selling" your companionship; it is simply an extension of the analogy. If you are, in fact, selling your companionship, I believe you may have a more entrepreneurial spirit than most (and slightly less morals).

First, let's start off with the product. If you're trying to market yourself as a premium product, don't just settle for any girl that throws herself at you (read: easy). You want to set a high standard so that if a girl does obtain you, she feels that she is in elite company.

Begin your marketing with some extensive promotion. What's the use of having a great product if you haven't let people know that you have a great product? You can achieve this by using tactics such as sponsorship. Just as McDonalds pays to be associated with the Olympics, you too can associate with someone who possesses many positive attributes (read: sexiness).

I must once again stress that companies pay for sponsorship. For the purposes of this analogy,

you should not. However, you should become friends with or make a positive impression on someone who has a good reputation. If you do this, potential suitors will think, "Wow, if they associate with him, maybe I should too!"

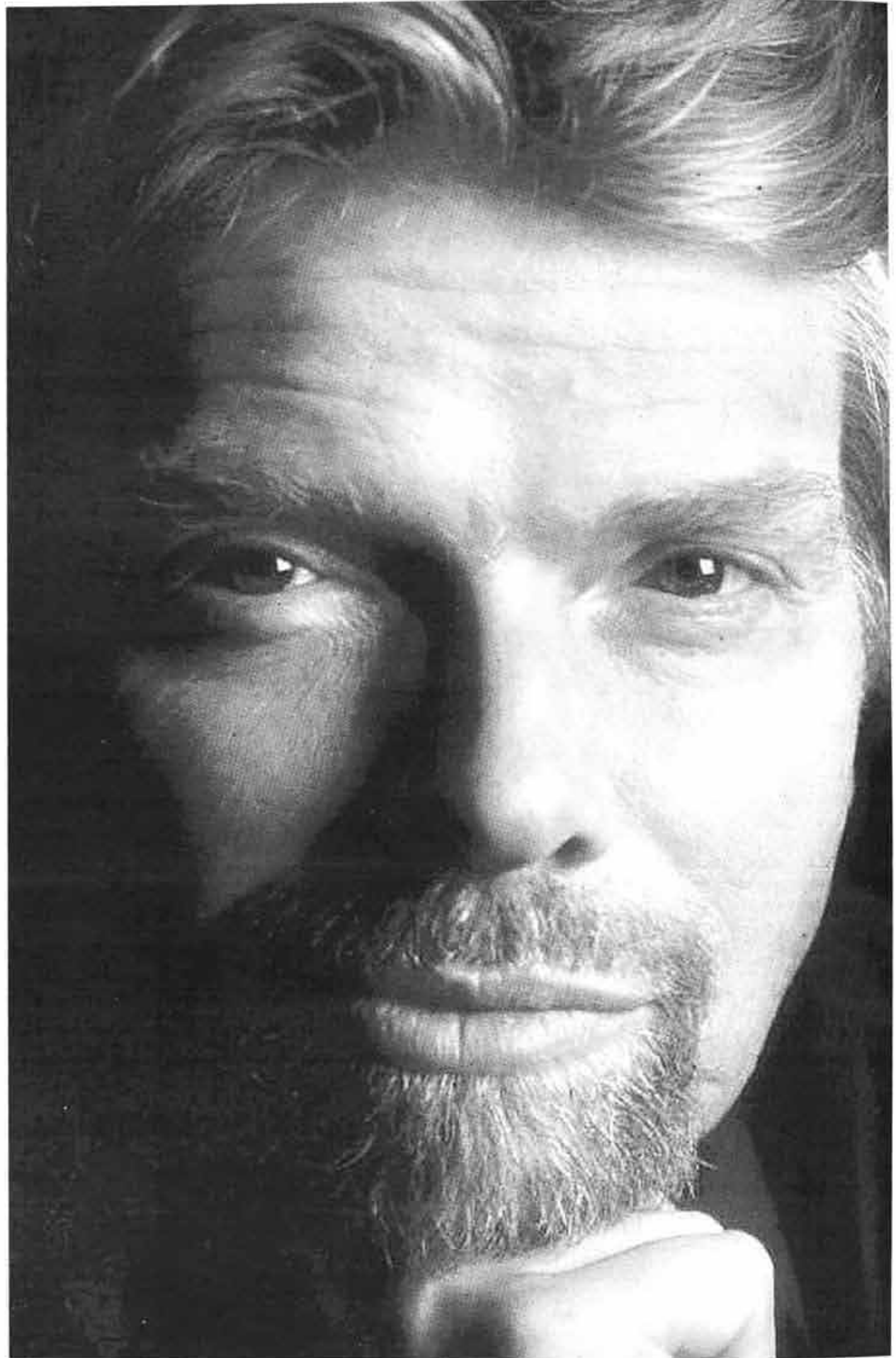
Another integral component of promotion is advertising. I'm not saying that you should blatantly brag or lie, but let potential suitors know what sets you apart from the rest. Do some personal selling, or use your friends as a medium. All it takes is for one friend to say, "Hey, did you hear [insert your name here] is a big-time pianist?" Now word will spread of your piano abilities, and very little work is required.

Just make sure you have the abilities to back up the claim. False advertising can get a product run right out of the market, if you know what I mean.

We now turn our attention to place. Any good marketing plan is contingent upon where the product is being sold. Are you a witty speaker, always quick on your feet? Try to sell your product in the classroom, at the workplace or at Wilf's. Just recognize that if you lack any pick-up lines and/or dancing ability, you are not marketing yourself properly by attending local dance clubs three times a week. There is music blaring, people are hammered, and your ability to carry a prolonged conversation isn't a big selling feature here. Know your strengths, and sell your product at the places where you can fully display these strengths.

Have you ever seen the guy who is not good-looking at all and doesn't have a ridiculous amount of money, yet has a beautiful woman on his arm? Chalk that up to proper utilization of the four P's. Hey, effective marketing has made some people believe that Ashlee Simpson has talent. Just imagine what it can do for you!

And if none of this works, just launch a new product line or target a new market. Sure, it sounds like a lot of work, but in the business world, it all comes down to the bottom line.



RICHARD BRANSON - The marketing genius behind the Virgin empire is certainly no virgin himself. Just look at him.

BLAIROSCOPES

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



Happy Birthday Aquarius!

With Valentine's Day just passing and your birthday around this time, your friends are starting to think you're a present-hoarding jerk. Be super duper nice to your friends this week by doing their laundry or writing their essays. It's karma baby.

Famous Aquarians:
Wayne Gretsky
Zsa Zsa Gabor
Yoko Ono
Opra Winfrey
Joe Pesci

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)



You know that song you just can't get out of your head? Yeah...you should probably get that looked at by a doctor, you might be crazy.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)



You're pasty. Start hitting the tanning bed this week so you'll have a base tan for wherever you go for reading week.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)



Has anyone told you you're a pain in the ass? Yeah, well then stop subjecting your roommates to lengthy diatribes about why your life sucks. They know it sucks and you know it sucks so now it's old news.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



Take advantage of Waterloo's erratic weather and have sex when there's still snow on the ground in Waterloo Park. Beware of the llamas though, they hiss, bite and spit.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



Call that friend you haven't hung out with since 1st year. You'll probably find out that their life is miserable and you'll feel much better about yourself by comparison.

Leo (July 23-August 22)



Grrr! Your sexual appetite was not fed during yesterday's V-Day activities so today you should head on down to The Stag Shop and buy yourself some lovin'. Like the ol' saying goes: You can take home a fisherman and get a piece tonight, you can take home his fishing rod and get some for life.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Be careful which shoes you wear out. It's slippery and if Saturn aligns with Pluto, you might fall in dog shit.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Libras are known for their indecisiveness so this week, let your posse pick the bar and focus on looking your finest when you do show up.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Mid-terms and essays got you stressed? Take a break from studying and relax by doing yoga or smoking a big spliff. Either way, really.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Your muck mouth has pissed a lot of people off recently. Get back in their good graces by having a huge party on Friday when the stars and Venus align, indicating it won't get busted by the 5-0.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



You'll meet someone at the bar this week that you think "really understands you" and decide to go home with them. You'll wake up in a crack-house in Kitchener with one or more venereal diseases. Trust me, Mars never lies.

Blair Forsyth-Stark has been fabricating horoscopes since the mid-eighties. Her predictions are accurate to within 3.1 percent. 19 times out of 20. She's got skills you just can't teach, son.

Think you know how the stars align any better? If you'd like to fabricate some horoscopes for Laurier's consumption, email: mpinchee@cordweekly.com

You could catch more than some good sun

JENNIFER O'NEILL
Body Break

With just a few more days to go before reading week, some of us are anticipating a week-long getaway to a warm place, sitting on the beach, drinking daiquiris by the pool and enjoying the sun.

Although there is nothing unhealthy about a little relaxation and vitamin D, other health considerations need to be taken into consideration before flying off this weekend.

You might have seen the new advertisements for the dual vaccine against both Hepatitis A and B. The commercials show a scene similar to a place that any of us might be traveling to for reading week. But, what is Hepatitis A and B, how is it transmitted, are you at risk and is it worth getting the vaccine?

Hepatitis can be spread via contaminated ice cubes, cooking utensils, raw fruit or vegetables washed in contaminated water

There are several things that you need to consider before assessing how much pre-travel health attention is needed.

For destinations where water quality, accommodation, medical care, hygiene and sanitation are all high there are fewer risks of contracting a disease such as Hep A. This will apply to most of you

going to major cities, ski chalets or anywhere within Canada.

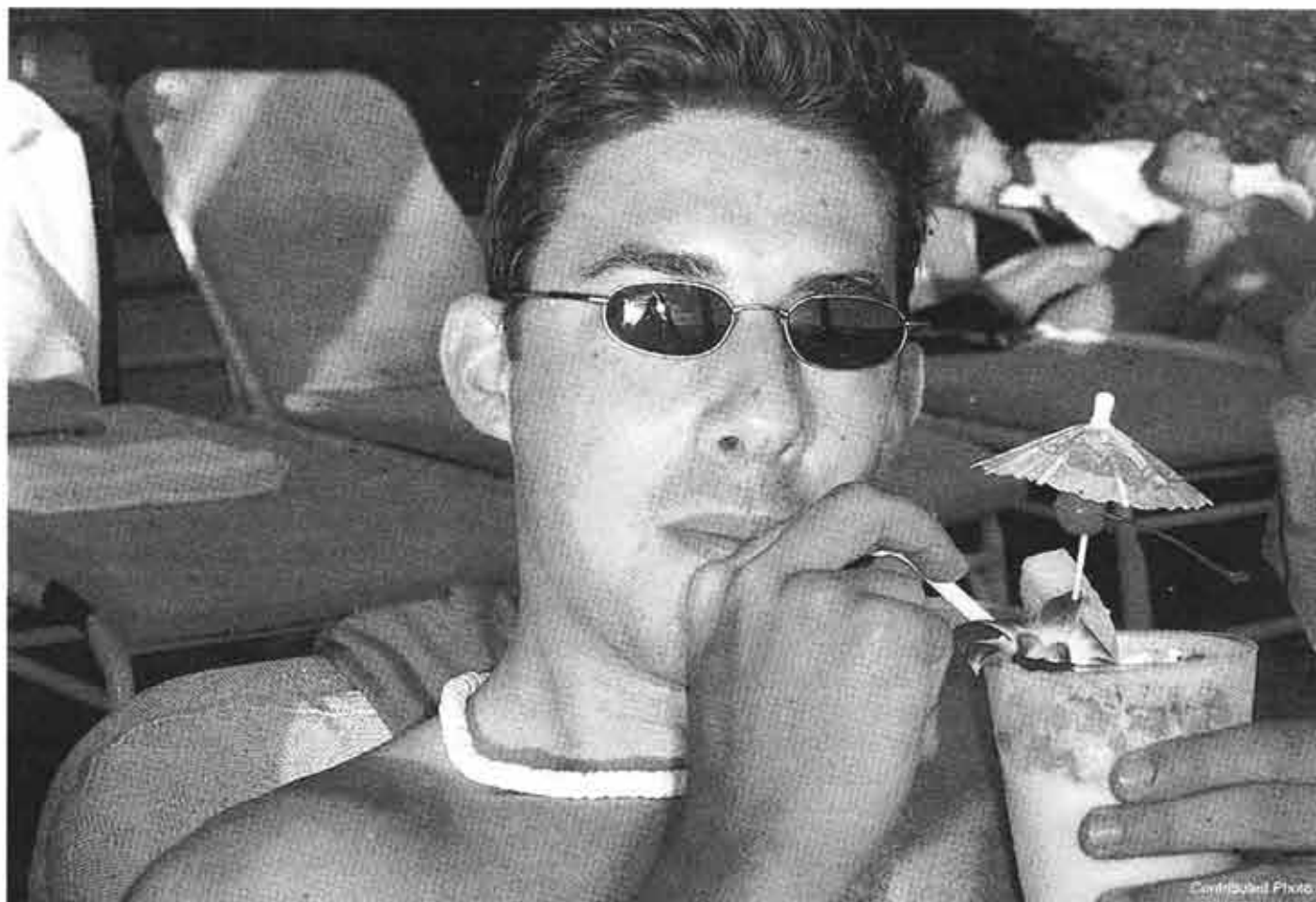
However, if you are traveling outside of Canada or to a remote area where there is no medical care, clean water and poor sanitation, you are at a higher risk of contracting common traveling diseases.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious virus that attacks the liver. It is spread by the fecal-oral route, close person-to-person contact or through ingesting contaminated water or food. This can include contaminated ice cubes, cooking utensils, uncooked fruit, vegetables washed in contaminated water or raw shellfish.

Symptoms can leave you debilitated in bed with fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal discomfort, jaundice and dark urine. As many as 22 percent of those affected with Hep A will require hospitalization, and approximately 100 people will die from this disease each year.

Hepatitis B, like Hepatitis A is a liver disease. It is spread through body fluids. You can contract Hep B by having sex with someone that is infected, using a contaminated needle (this includes tattoos and body piercing equipment), sharing a toothbrush or razor with someone who is infected or traveling to a place where Hep B is common.

Symptoms of this disease include: exhaustion, upset stom-



PINA COLADA? - Or a cesspool of disease? This drink could be contaminated, so get your Hepatitis shots!

ach, fever, loss of appetite, stomach pain and diarrhea. Treatment is available, but when left undiagnosed it could cause your liver to breakdown.

Symptoms of both these diseases are similar to the symptoms of the common flu and food poisoning; because of this, self-diagnosis can be wrong.

Hep A and B are contagious even before you experience any symptoms. If you experience anything suspicious upon returning

home, see your family doctor, especially if you have visited an area that has an outbreak of the disease.

Even the most cautious travelers can contract Hep A, so be mindful when traveling to resorts this spring break. Endemic regions include: Mexico, parts of the Caribbean, South America, Central America, Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

It is recommended if you are

traveling to any of these regions that you get a vaccine before you leave.

Although there are single vaccinations out there that cover both Hep A and B, most of us would have received our Hep B shots in grade seven. These shots are effective for up to three years. Before getting any vaccines speak to a health care professional who knows your medical history.

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Fitting inside the WLU bubble

Going away to university is never easy, but is especially difficult for Laurier's international students. Here's the story of one girl's struggle to adapt

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

As many travelers know, going to a different country can be intimidating. For someone traveling alone, a new culture or even a language barrier can be frustrating.

When Claudia Esparza arrived in Canada from Mexico, this is just what she experienced.

She came to Laurier through Laurier International (LINT) in the fall of 2004 to study communications, thrilled about going on exchange.

"It's an awesome experience to come here but it's very hard," she said, explaining her trouble fitting in.

Her English wasn't great and, unfamiliar with the subtle differences of North American culture, she has made a few faux-pas. Once, when entering a friend's house, she didn't remove her shoes.

"I had no idea that I have to do that," she said.

She was also never set up with a LINT mentor, who are assigned to students coming on exchanges as a sort of guide to help ease the transition into a new setting. Not having one made it all the more difficult for her to adjust.

"It made it hard for me because everything I had to do, I had to do by myself," she said, noting she has since become a mentor so students won't have to go through what she did.

Not only was Esparza left to figure things out on her own, her thick accent made it difficult for her to communicate with most people, making her feel self-conscious.

"You feel silly, that you are not saying the correct thing," she explained.

In one of her tutorials, after asking her to repeat herself several

times, Esparza's prof gave up and didn't call on her again.

With some work, Esparza has improved her English and has gone from having to repeat herself to speaking fluently. This is one reason why she feels that going on exchange is important.

"You develop lots of skills like language," she said.

Esparza is in her third year of study at a post-secondary school, her second at Laurier. She spent her first year at Itam University in Mexico City, a well-known school in the Latin American nation with ties to Laurier. "In Mexico, [Laurier] is well known ... I like the prestige of the university," she said.

The two schools are fairly similar, except for one difference with essays.

"I shouldn't say this, but [at Itam] we honour plagiarism," explained Esparza. "It's not like copying a whole book but you can just take a note from it," she said. She also explained that as long as the book is included in the bibliography, there is no need for any direct attribution to the quote or idea.

Last year, Esparza discovered that Laurier's plagiarism policy wasn't so lax. After copying a diagram and including it in her report, the TA quickly picked it up. She was let off after explaining herself but it taught her a lesson.

"Now I know that it's plagiarism," she said.

Although she had a bit of a rough start after arriving in a new country and starting at a new school, Esparza has taken a liking to Canada.

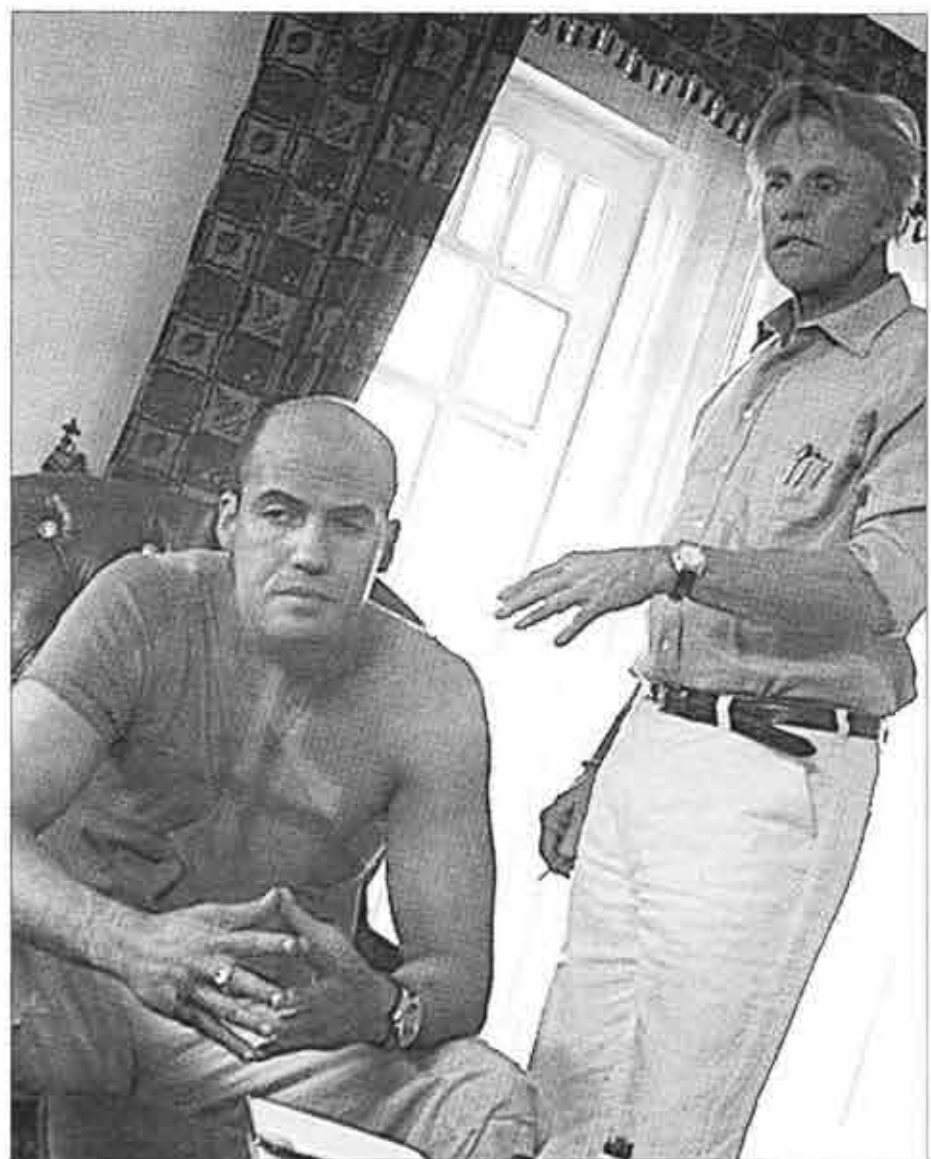
She is planning on staying permanently and pursuing a career in public relations or marketing.

"I like it and I feel at home now," she said.



Brandon Currie

ADAPTING WELL - Laurier International student Claudia Esparza explains her difficulty adjusting in her first few months at Laurier. She is now a mentor so she can help incoming students settle in at WLU.



Contributed Photo

EVIL AMERICANS - Billy Zane and Gary Busey are cast as "bad Americans" in the new Turkish film *Valley of Wolves: Iraq* that is drawing record crowds

Anti-American film packs ciniplexes in Turkey

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

It's the most expensive film ever made in Turkey, with a budget of \$10 million (USD).

Valley of the Wolves: Iraq is drawing record crowds and it's rabidly anti-American.

One student, who was waiting to see the movie for the second time said, "It is anti-American, but we already know what they've done in Iraq. That's the reality. Now we can see it on screen."

The movie has been reserved on five separate screens at one of Istanbul's biggest multiplex cinemas. Nearly all the seats are sold out.

The movie portrays the real-life incident of the arrest in July 2003 of Turkish special forces in northern Iraq.

The soldiers were led out of their headquarters at gunpoint by US soldiers, who had put hoods over their heads.

There was an apology from the United States but the incident had a deep impact with Turkey taking it as national humiliation.

The film is riddled with scenes portraying America in a bad light, including a civilian massacre by US troops at a wedding party, the firebombing of a mosque during evening prayer and multiple summary executions.

Viewers are also offered a glimpse for the first time on the big screen of the abuse that occurred at Abu Ghraib prison.

"Our film's a sort of political action," said script-writer Bahadır Özdenir. "Turkey and America are allies, but Turkey wants to say something to its friend. We want to say the bitter truth."

Turkish journalist Cengiz Candar saw improving relations between the US and Turkey before the film was released. He now fears that *Valley of the Wolves* will allow Turkey to slip down the slope of anti-Americanism.

"It's pushing society to be inward-looking and hostile to our allies and would-be allies. This kind of mentality will do no good for Turkey," he said.

There was a mixed reaction from the audience leaving the multiplex in Istanbul.

"Everything we've been hearing on the news about Iraq is in this film," one woman said. "We condemn this war and will continue to condemn it. But I don't see America as our fundamental enemy."

While this woman wasn't so quick to lash out against America, others weren't so lenient.

"I'm really upset after this," said one man. "If I see an American when I get out of here I feel like taking a hood and putting it over their head."

The film will be in European theaters soon and will make its way to Canadian and American theaters shortly thereafter.

Article was clear enough, cartoon unnecessary

Helal Fattal, a Muslim who attends the University of Waterloo, reacts to the cartoon portrayal of Muhammad in last week's section



Last Wednesday, *The Cord Weekly* published an article entitled, "Cartoon Ignites Muslim Furor".

At the top of this article, a picture which was circulated by the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* portraying the Prophet Muhammad in a derogatory manner was also published. This happened even though the current international events have made it clear that the picture is both offensive and insulting to the Muslim religion.

There was an attempt to censor parts of the picture, namely the

eyes and the nose, which begs the question: Why place it there in the first place? The picture was still clear enough to be recognized, and still very insulting.

This all comes after the *Jyllands-Posten* almost printed cartoons of Jesus three years ago, but they didn't due to concern over there being a public outcry as reported in *Guardian Unlimited*. "Danish paper rejected Jesus", on February 6, 2006.

The Muslim cartoons were printed in defiance of a Danish law that can fine or imprison for up to four months anyone who "publicly offends or insults a religion that is recognised in the country." In this case, the Muslims who went to court asking for this law to be applied were thrown out.

One must ask, is this really an

issue of freedom of speech?

Islam does not permit any imagery, whether in the form of pictures or statues, of any prophet or, even more importantly, of God. This also demeans the prophets, giving a false feeling that anybody can fill their shoes, even though they were chosen and raised by God for mankind.

Some might argue that the picture was only placed there as a representation of the topic being discussed, but it was in no way necessary. The article was clear enough on its own and was already offensive, with remarks such as, "the backlash and violence that has erupted over the cartoons has exposed the very nature of the problem in many Muslim societies."

Freedom of speech is enshrined

to protect speech that is widely disagreed with, hated and even considered blasphemous. But is it there to protect people who slander others, insult them or accuse them of crimes? Where do the limits lie, or are there no limits?

Imagine every country expressing to another what they really think of them. Imagine how different things would be if you said every single thing that runs through your mind to your friends, your boss or your loved ones.

This is true with all "freedoms," otherwise there would be anarchy. Nobody can claim that we are totally free to do or say whatever we want.

Limits to personal freedoms are set in order to organize how people interact with one another. This

is why Islam views these as rights and responsibilities rather than freedoms.

These limits have been made clear in Islam, and that is why it is forbidden for us to insult the gods or idols of others. Instead, Muslims are told, "Invite to the Way of your Lord with wisdom [clear proof] and fair preaching," as opposed to the remark made in the *Cord* article, "The newspaper had a right and, it appears, a duty to print the cartoons." Did the newspaper have a duty to insult Islam and Muslims?

Issues should be debated with arguments that are backed up by reasoning, not cheap insults. Such would only be intellectual bankruptcy, and in the case of the *Jyllands-Posten*, pure hypocrisy.

McGill students STAND up for Darfur

University students join forces with other schools to launch a national campaign to persuade companies to cease operations in Sudan

MONTREAL (CUP) - McGill students are leading what could well become a nation-wide charge to ensure that Canadian universities aren't supporting violence in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

The McGill chapter of Students Taking Action in Darfur (STAND) is the first to take steps toward getting universities to divest from companies who operate in the Sudan. Clubs at Concordia University, University of Western Ontario, York University and Queen's University are also expected to launch campaigns before the end of the semester.

Emily Bennett, a member of STAND-McGill, whose parent organization has branches on at least ten campuses in Quebec and Ontario, said that one of the immediate goals of the campaign is to educate people about an issue that has largely fallen off the public's radar.

The crisis in Darfur began in February 2003, when the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement captured the airport in the central Darfur capital of El Fasher. The United Nations has called it "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world."

According to STAND, since 2003 Sudanese government forces and government-backed ethnic militias known as "janjaweed" have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and "ethnic cleansing" in the Darfur region of Sudan. The United Nations estimates that as many as 200,000 people have died in the conflict and two million people have been displaced.

Bennett, a first-year Geography and International Development Studies student, said that the crisis has been neglected for too long.

Daniel Dane, a member of STAND at York University in Toronto, said that the crisis in Darfur is very serious, comparing it to the Holocaust.

"I'm Jewish, so I grew up hearing the motto 'Never again, never again,'" he said. "Well, it's happening again."



TAKING A STAND - From left to right: Josh Scheinert, co-chair of STAND Canada's divestment campaign, Emily Bennett, head of McGill's divestment campaign, and Tara Tavender, co-chair of the STAND Canada divestment campaign show off petitions in the McGill Daily office.

In addition, some students say it's important to ensure that their universities' investments are socially responsible.

"Personally, I don't want to attend a school that, willingly or not, is supporting the genocide," said Dane.

The process of divestment varies at each university. At McGill, STAND must submit three petitions from different constituencies at McGill, as well as briefing notes and letters in support of campaign, to a committee of the Board of Governors, the University's highest governing body.

So far, STAND has collected signatures from more than 400 students who support divestment; the group is also circulating a petition to faculty members and is trying to secure letters of support from various academics knowledgeable about the situation in Darfur.

"We have no misconceptions. We know this isn't the most direct way, but we think it will be effective," said Bennett, explaining that she hopes that the public attention generated by the campaign will prompt Western governments to provide more logistical, finan-

cial support to the African Union, which in turn could provide help to those affected by the situation.

STAND-McGill also filed a freedom of information request to find out where McGill's endowment fund investments lie, and the group is now researching this list to determine which companies have ties to Sudan.

"We're basically paving the way for other clubs, to let them know what works and what doesn't," said Bennett.

However, Dane said clubs at other schools may have difficulty getting their hands on lists of their

universities' investment holdings, because, under Ontario laws, universities have no obligation to divulge such information.

Tara Tavender, a Concordia student and co-chair of the STAND Canada divestment campaign, said that she does not expect Canadian universities to have a lot of money invested in companies that work out of Sudan. She emphasized that STAND hoped to work cooperatively with universities on the issue.

"We don't want this to be us versus them," she said. "We want to work as a team."

Haiti embroiled in another crisis

René Préal supporters take to the streets of Port-au-Prince to demand his elections as president

KEREN GOTTFRIED
Cord International

Tension in Haiti climaxed on Monday as support for René Préal, the leading presidential candidate in the general election, fell below 50 percent. With 90 percent of the ballots counted, Haitians will likely have to go through a second round of voting.

Tens of thousands of protestors took to the streets in Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince, demanding that Préal be named president and making accusations of ballot mishandling. They barricaded the city with burning tires, letting in only Red Cross vehicles and journalists.

ond round of voting will allow his opponents to band together in favour of Manigat.

The Organization of American States (OAS) has asked Préal's leading rivals to withdraw from the run-off vote to avoid Haiti plummeting back into anarchy.

Pierre Richard Duchemin and Patrick Fequiere of the elections council accused the vote tabulation of mistreatment. "According to me, there's a certain level of manipulation," Fequiere said. Having been excluded from the viewing process, he adds, "There is an effort to stop people from asking questions."

He calls attention to 72,000 blank ballots, which are being added to vote totals, and effectively lowering each candidate's percentage. A spokesman from the elections council said blank votes had not been counted in

past elections. Yasmine Shamsie, a Laurier political science professor and expert on the troubled Caribbean nation, views the election optimistically. "Haitians participated in strong numbers, showing a renewed belief in electoral politics as a vehicle for change," she explained.

Préal represents the impoverished majority of Haiti. While one percent of the French-speaking mulattos own almost 50 percent of Haiti's wealth, the Creole-speaking black majority live on about one dollar per day. Shamsie hopes Préal's political agenda bridges the gap between the poor and the elite.

Despite seeing the election as a positive first step, Shamsie cautions that "there is still much to be done - political reconciliation and disarmament will be key short term objectives in the months ahead."

Tens of thousands of protestors took to the streets in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince demanding that Préal be named president

At least two men were found dead, claimed by dozens of witnesses to have been shot by Jordanian UN peacekeepers. UN officials deny witness accounts, claiming to have only shot into the air.

"People, don't stay in the streets," said interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue in a televised speech. "The transitional government is not stealing your vote."

Haitians have been waiting a week for the election outcome, and received mixed messages over the weekend. "We came looking for someone to give us the real results," said one of the organizers. "We did not come here looking for violence."

Even with less than half of the votes, Préal's 48.7 percent of the vote is a commanding lead over the other candidates. Leslie François Manigat, his closest competitor, came in with 11.8 percent. Préal supporters fear that a sec-



Contributed Photo

YES, IT'S REALLY MUD - A Haitian woman eats a mudpie in the volatile neighbourhood of Cite-Soleil in Port-au-Prince on February 9, 2006. Made of mud, mud pies are sometimes the only food available for the poor of Haiti.

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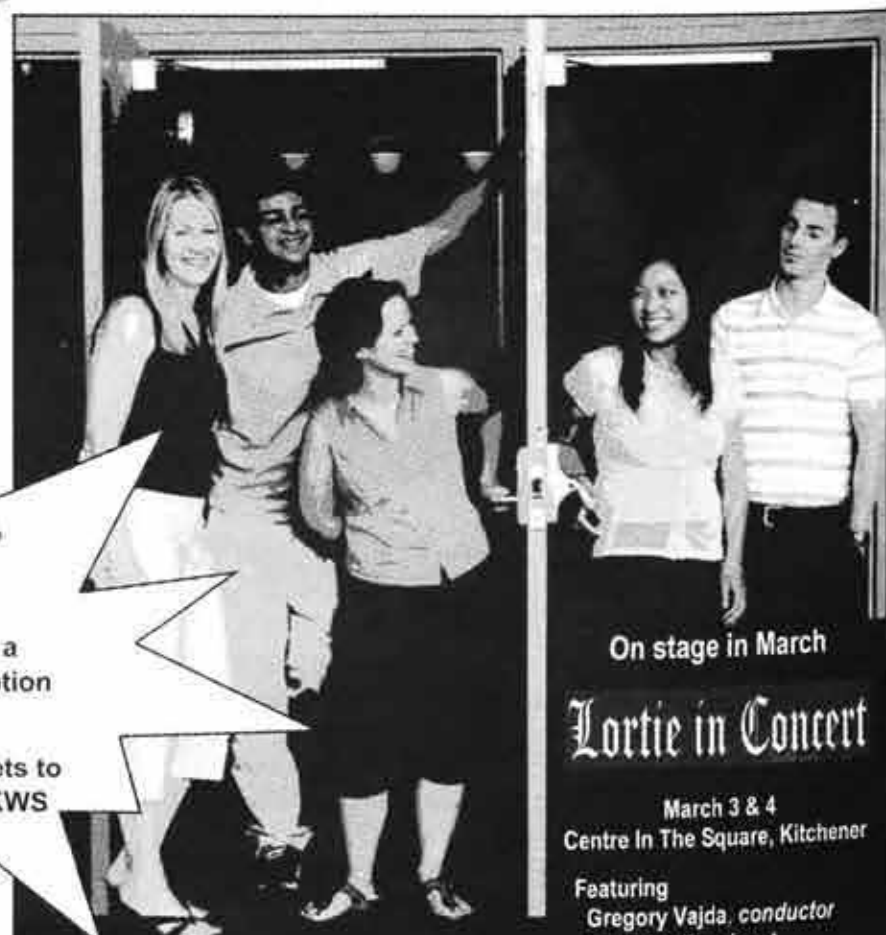
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**Applications are due Monday
February 27, 2006 at 12:00pm.**

Waterloo - drop off applications at WLUSP Office
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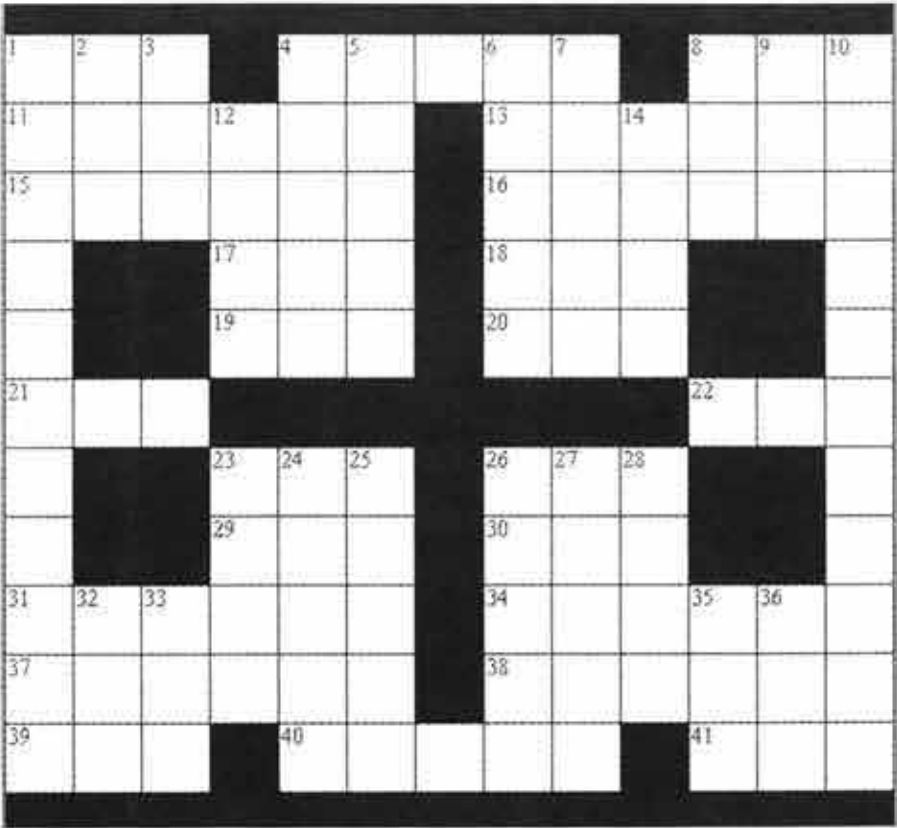
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This Week's Crossword



Across:
1. What bunnies do
4. What Barbies are
8. Mother
11. Alanis Morissette song
13. _____ Borealis
15. Sitting; inactive; quiet
16. Type of pin
17. Measure of how old someone is
18. Often
19. Weed, Mary Jane, Wacky Tabacco, etc
20. A handwoven Scandinavian rug

21. Anger, irritate
22. As opposed to KMH
23. _____ urday
26. Attention defic.... Hey! Look at that!
29. Here, a la Shakespeare
30. Road en Francais
31. To slow or block
34. Type of song
37. Root vegetable
38. Egg dish
39. What 007 is
40. Savannah animal
41. Sheep noise

Down:
1. Exaggerated emotional behavior calculated for effect
2. What metal is extracted from
3. What dolphins travel in
4. Wild outback dog
5. Group of eight
6. Labour, for Americans
7. Being very surf-like
8. Cow noise
9. Tolkien creature
10. Sanskrit epic principally concerning the dynastic struggle and civil war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas in the kingdom of Kurukshetra about the 9th century B.C.
12. The tongue or pole of a cart or other vehicle drawn by two animals
14. An island of the western Pacific Ocean in the southern Mariana Islands north of Guam
23. Person who sees
24. Effort
25. White things in your mouth, help with chewing
26. Criminal fire
27. A cathedral, especially one in Italy
28. A sandy tract or dune by the seashore
32. Guide to land
33. Use a crowbar for this
35. A long white linen robe with tapered sleeves worn by a priest at Mass
36. Brewed beverage

Sydoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | | | | |
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| | 2 | | 8 | | | | | 6 |
| | | | | 4 | | | | |

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the blank squares so that each row/column and each block of nine includes the numbers 1-9.

WIN MOVIE TICKETS/DVDS!

Successfully complete the Sydoku and bring it down to Angela at the WLUSP offices (basement of Mac House).



Be the one of the first to complete the Sudoku puzzle and win one of 4 packages of 2 tickets to the February 23rd showing of *Running Scared* at 7pm at Galaxy Theatre.

Insanity Lite - I Wish My Grass Was Emo...
(... Then It Would Cut Itself)

Written, Drawn and Inked By: Jacob Duprey

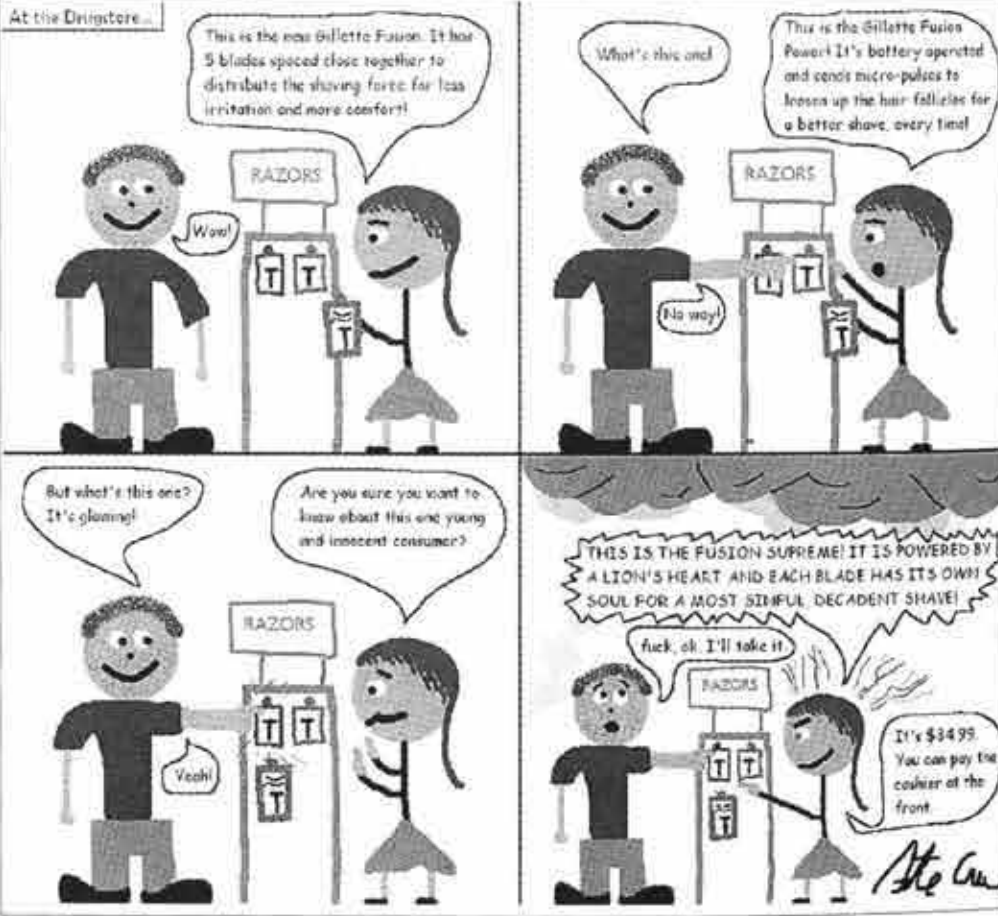


Economic Comic

By G. McCallum



Weekly Bad Drawing
By Pete Cram

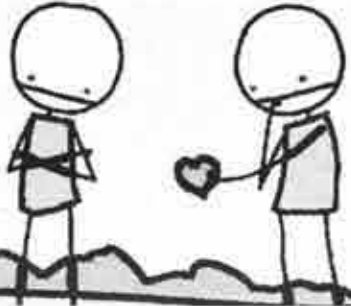


Last Week's Answers

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| SMUDGE | | | | TENANT | | | |
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| 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 |

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PERSONALS

Happy Valentine's Day to my ultra fabulous, smoking-hot roommates. Thanks Patty for the gazillion BEAUTIFUL roses you had sent to my house this morning, it made my day! Thank you to everyone who helped me study for that hellish midterm. Silvia I'm bringing your shoes back soon, I swear! Cordies- you're a bunch of sexy beasts, love you all! 5 DAYS TIL NEW YORK!!!!

xoxo Mishy (aka Pinchy)

Thanks to all the ASAP committee members for all their hard work this year. Shoutouts to my Apprentice team, Celine and Briana, hope we don't get the boardroom. Thanks Emilie for reassuring me that my drawings aren't crappy. Damn you AutoCAD 2006 for being completely and utterly incomprehensible. Happy Valentine's Day and sort-of-almost-maybe anniversary to Jenners.

Deng Xio Shim

Dear desperate people,
I do not have enough arrows to make everyone fall in love for Valentine's Day. I'm afraid you'll have to use alcohol instead.

Cupid

Dear Jason,
Will you be my Valentine?

Meg Ryan

Dear Waterloo,
Please stop snowing. It's cold.

\$2 man

Dear Jesus,
Please be my valentine.

Jason

ZAAA

Thank you to passport canada for speedily processing my passport - I could have lost out on some serious goodtimes. Thanks to Rankin for his threats over the LB fiasco - Blair for coming through in a pinch and generally aggravating me to no end, Ash and Em - happy birthday. Now you know not to fuck with Mike and I. You too Becky Asses were handed back on platters. Dude Pistons for showing spirit in the last half and making a go of it. Next week will be better we just need some tans and Costa beers filled with Hep A to get us back on the winning track. Thanks to Geoff for organizing this little sojourn between his commanding drumming and bartending responsibilities. No space. BB

Holler,

To the crew for allowing me to write this at 2:19am, Em for putting up with my romance-stifling job, Liverpool for taking down the Gunners and Blair for being clutch on p'duction nights. Brother dawg, we're pulling for your pops and the whole Jocius clan - I've never met a finer bunch of Lithuanians.

Atcha Boy

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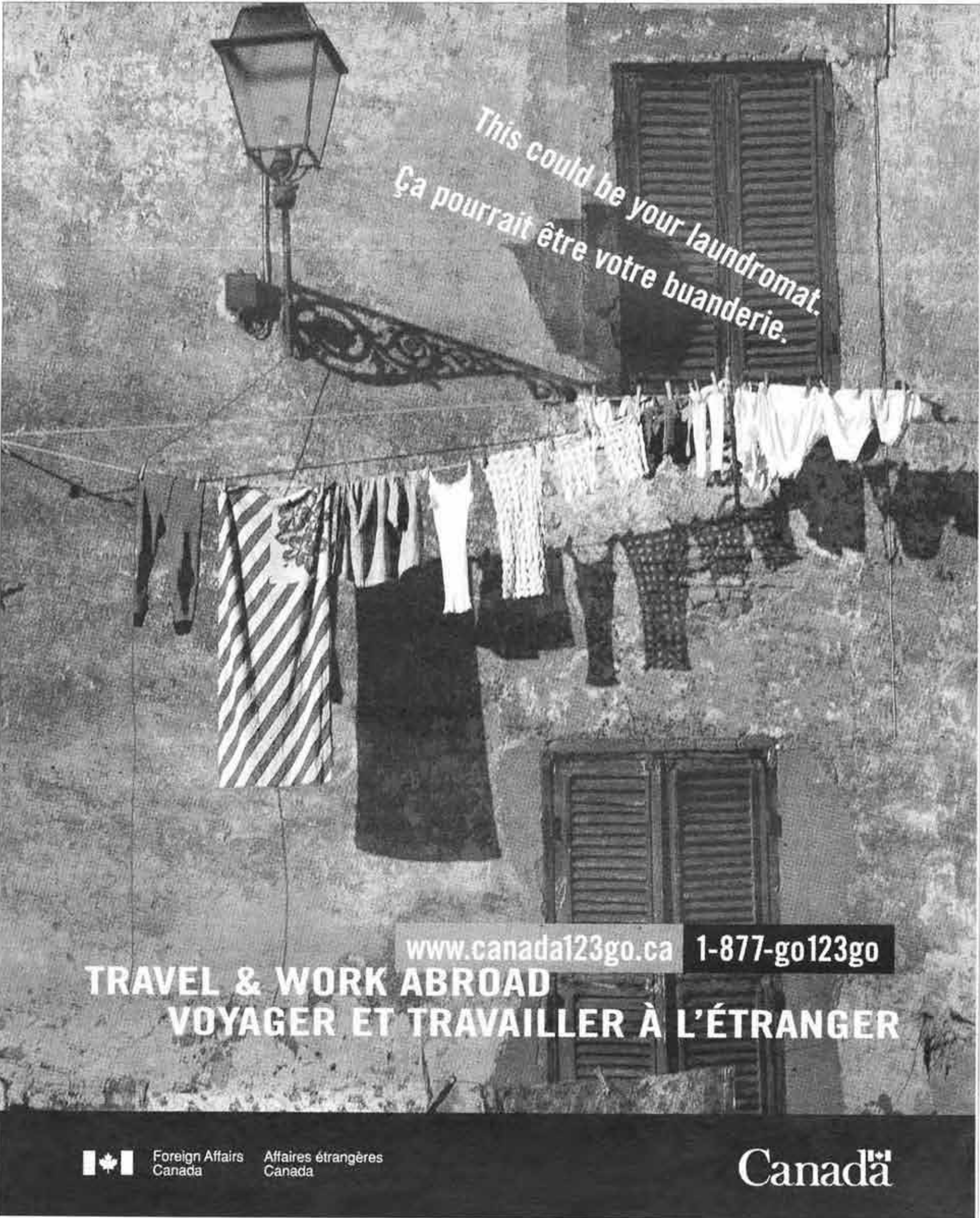
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Destination series on wrong track



Contributed Photo

Final Destination 3



0 out of a possible 5 creepy winds

Director: James Wong

Release Date: Feb. 10, 2006

Starring: Mary Elizabeth Winstead

DRU JEFFRIES
Film Critic

Remember the good old days? You know, back in 2003 when the grass was green, the air was clear, heads rolled (sometimes literally), and it was all in good fun?

I even wanted to cause a rift in Death's design when I grew up. Doesn't that sound peachy? Well,

let's just say that I'm thinking about changing my five-year plan after seeing *Final Destination 3*.

When we last left Death, he was still kickin' ass and fixin' the fissures that pesky kids keep ripping in his grand scheme with their damned visions! This time, he's aiming his sickle at the high school crowd, and who could blame him? I'd rather die in an amusingly complex and gratuitous way than have to deal with the irritating adolescents that he's taking out of the picture.

Final Destination 3 is as derivative of the first two films as you'd expect. Read the back of either's DVD case and then add, "... but with a roller coaster!" and you'll be

on the right track (pun intended, of course). That said, these films take us into fascinating territory, I think, despite the fundamentally juvenile approach that the various directors and actors et al. choose to take the material in. Watch David Cronenberg's *The Dead Zone* and see what the *Final Destination* franchise could be like if it respected its audience.

Instead of the thinking-person's/Cronenberg approach, the *Final Destination* films go in the opposite direction. These films operate on a very rigid and sadistic structure that involves pleasuring the viewer by extending the period before which a human being is brutally killed. Red herring after

red herring is thrown out, willy nilly, until finally each character bites the inevitable dust. The viewer lets out a sigh of relief and, most significantly, whimsy as the character finally dies.

And it worked in the first two. It was fun, but in *Final Destination 3*, they take away our glee, ask us to feel for these barely one-dimensional characters. Take the second big set-piece, in which two ditzy and anorexic teen airheads die by tanning booth (not kidding). The characters are both 17-years-old, but that doesn't stop the director from including their naked breasts in the frame at all times. We voyeuristically watch them sing "Love Rollercoaster" (how ironic)

until their flesh starts bubbling and they both die in a fiery, gooey mess. Scenes like this aren't frightening; they're just uncomfortable.

Some things, on the other hand, are inherently scary. Unexplained wind—sort of. Circuses at night—getting warmer. Tony Todd as Satan—Hell yes. But I don't think that *Final Destination 3* wants to scare you, and it doesn't want you to revel in its needlessly gory representations of death, either.

This film occupies that middle ground, where you just kind of sit in your seat and feel badly. Not for the characters on screen, but for yourself. It's a self-pity movie. Now why didn't anyone think of this sub-genre before?

Another year, another Grammy awards



Contributed Photo

DRILL SARGEANTS - Kanye West performs with bandmate Jamie Foxx.

Kanye West, Green Day and U2 take home some hilariously large gramophones

DAVE RICCI
Cord A&E

Last Wednesday, the very best of mainstream music came together for a night of endless awards and attention-grabbing performances.

The big success story of the night was the five-Grammy win by the self-proclaimed greatest band in the world, U2. Among their five wins, U2 took home the top-honored Album of the Year award for their latest release, *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb*.

Friends and collaborators Kanye West and John Legend each took home three awards. Justifiably, Legend won the prestigious Best New Artist Award; beating out musicians such as Fall Out Boy and Keane. Kanye West received Best Rap Album of the Year; beating out such mainstream giants such as Common and 50 Cent.

Punk rockers Green Day received a well-deserved Record of the Year Grammy for their smash hit, *American Idiot*.

Every award show is bound to have a few shocking victories. Kelly Clarkson beat out legends Mariah Carey and Bonnie Raitt and 'It' girl Gwen Stefani for Best Female Pop Performance for her song, "Since U Been Gone".

Like Clarkson, Iowa-based metal act Slipknot beat the odds and won their first Grammy. After six years of being consecutively nominated in the metal category, Slipknot finally took home the Best Metal Performance trophy for their track, "Before I Forget".

Many up-and-coming indie acts like Arcade Fire and Death Cab For Cutie received nominations for Best Alternative Album.

Nonetheless, it was The White Stripes who beat out fresher acts showing that talent only grows better with age.

British electronic royalty The Chemical Brothers also took home two awards for Best Dance Recording and Best Electronic/Dance Album for their latest release, *Push The Button*.

Fellow Brits The Gorillaz took

home Best Pop Performance Collaboration With Vocals for their recording "Feel Good Inc" featuring rap legends De La Soul.

But a night of awards is never complete without some star-studded performances. The Staples Centre was treated to an all-star tribute to funk legend Sly Stone with artists such as Joss Stone and Maroon 5 took to the stage to play classic cuts from the Stone catalogue. At one point, Stone himself took to the stage and momentarily graced the crowd with his keyboard skills.

One of the most innovative points occurred when Sir Paul McCartney took to the stage with Jay-Z and Linkin Park. After performing the mashed up hit "Numb/Encore", McCartney slid onto the stage and performed the classic, "Yesterday".

With another Grammy ceremony in the books, music fans will have to wait another year for an evening of glamour and prestige.

CBC and mainstream musical masturbation



TORONTO (CUP) - If you can't remember the last time you listened to the radio, the next time you do, turn your dial to 99.1 FM at 11:30am.

Anyone who is even the least bit of a music snob will enjoy CBC Radio One's The National Playlist, hosted by Jian Ghomeshi, formerly of the now defunct CBC TV program, >play. The show combines wit and critical commentary to the music we may or may not love.

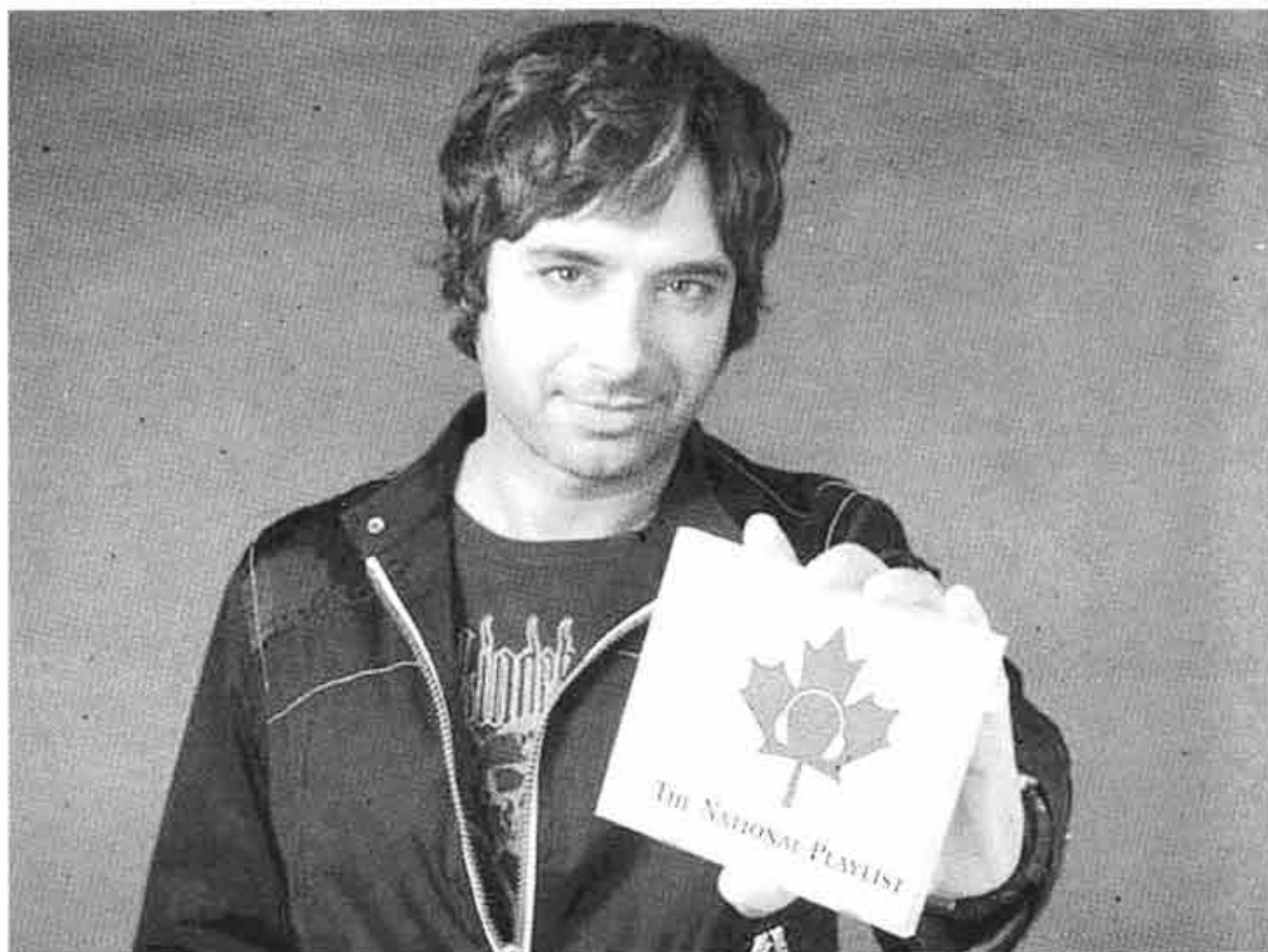
The concept of the daily 30-minute show is simple. Ghomeshi invites Canadians who are affiliated with the music industry, such as songwriters, producers, columnists and the like, and asks them for 50 seconds, to pitch a song that they believe should be on the playlist. Then, in a pretentiously cultural fashion, debate if the song is worthy enough for their tastes.

This is no Top 40 Pop countdown. The songs that have been

pitched range from Neil Young's Heart of Gold to Your Ex-lover is Dead by Stars. With this in mind, this show isn't for every music snob. If you hear someone talking about how awesome Belle and Sebastian are, and you shudder in disgust, stay away.

I enjoy the show quite a bit. However, the musical masturbation becomes somewhat cumbersome—you need to enjoy it with moderation. Sometimes you just like a certain song and there's no need to give an intellectual reason as to why it's influencing the music industry or your life. You just like the song because you like the way it sounds.

Many of us are out there: those who scoff at the indie music scene, but secretly devour anything that diverges from the mainstream. Still, give The National Play List a listen. You'll learn a lot about music you haven't heard yet, and also hear songs you haven't heard in a long time. However you look at it, at the end of the day, you've done your duty for this country by listening to and supporting Canadian media.



MUSIC ADDICT - Jian Ghomeshi, host of CBC Radio One's The National Playlist, where guests pick favourite songs.

Young artists on stage at Jam

- From **POLAR JAM**, page 24

Before beginning the gentle "Morning Light", Barber encouraged the crowd to "sway mitten in mitten with your partner", a fitting remark as the sweet ballad recalled quieter Ryan Adams songs. "Like Lightning" failed to justify its analogy, weakened by clichéd lyrics, but a cover of Costello's "Peace Love and Understanding" became a set highlight for appreciative fans.

The Edge's Barry Taylor acted as emcee for the night, and by this the stage was completely wasted. Simultaneously expressing his distasteful love of "Toronto hookers" and claiming to be a "homophobe, but will fuck a guy," his unprofessional but laughable stage presence was the perfect compliment to the next band.

The Salads, who unfortunately replaced Pilate for this prime slot, tried too hard to grab the audience's attention. Their cover of "Today It's Your Lucky Day" showed Chuck Daily's lack of singing ability, but at least the crowd seemed interested.

"Get Loose", with a ska rhythm, brought a bit of diversity to the table, but was marred by indistinct, over-distorted guitar. At the best of times, The Salads came across as a cross between Limp Biscuit and Smash Mouth. Enough said.

Mobile were a similarly disappointing affair, but an increasingly large crowd gave them confidence in their U2-esque anthemic quality. A muddy sound dominated by bass guitar waned the audience's attention, but further through their set, quality improved.

"Out of my head" was a more mainstream, Killers-style rock song, with a dancing drum rhythm slowly appeasing disgruntled members of the beer tent. Cover "Message in a Bottle" ended their set on a high note, though ulti-

mately Mobile failed to make the impact they should have.

Finally, what the audience was waiting for. Less than a year ago, Bedouin Soundclash would have been at the bottom of the bill, but a remarkably quick ascendance to stardom has catapulted their status as Canada's premier reggae-rock trio.

"Living in Jungles" was a great choice for their opener, showcasing the surprisingly strong stage presence of the three-piece band.

Following this came "Shelter", with its chiming guitar and sing-along quality, allowing the crowd to dance along while fighting off frostbite. "I appreciate you guys coming here in the cold" thanked frontman Jay Malinowski, before Bedouin Soundclash stormed through favourites "Jeb Rand" and "Gyasi Went Home". Eon Sinclair proved the necessity of a good bass player, adding vital groove to each song. "Music My Rock" twanged along playfully as the Kingston trio proved why they headlined Polar Jam.

Next came a cover of The Clash's "Rudie Can't Fail", blended with The Ramones, providing a short history of Bedouin's influences. "Shadow of a Man" was followed by the more mainstream, alt-rocking "Santa Monica" before "New Year's Day" recalled the spirit of previous Laurier performances.

Malinowski thanked the audience for their support before easing into the hit "When the Night Feels My Song" as a fitting finale and relief for hundreds of numbing bodies.

Hazy green light filtered through the frosty air as Jay and co. closed an eventful day of mostly superb rock entertainment. And if you looked closely, perhaps you would have spotted a tear in the singer's eye, playing at Laurier for most likely the last time.

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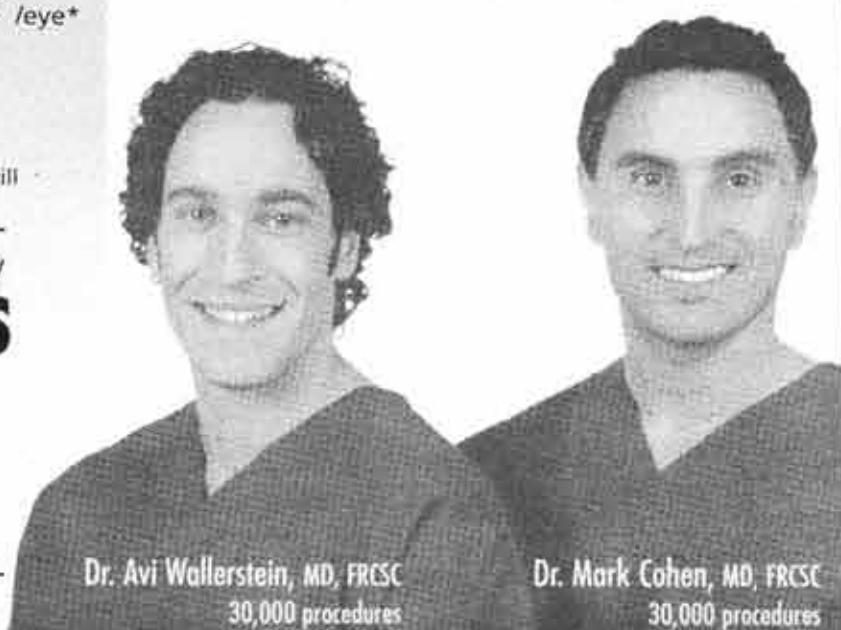
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University Stadium freezes over



Jordan Jocus

Despite poor attendance, WLU and UW's joint festival, Polar Jam, did succeed in offering an admirable array of talented young Canadian bands

ALEX HAYTER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last Friday, Laurier and Waterloo students squeezed into their mittens, doubled up their socks and zipped up their anoraks in preparation for what was supposed to be the biggest musical event the city had ever seen. Though audience numbers were ashamedly small for the first handful of talented acts, the first half of the show was not to be missed.

As massive heating fans kicked in, K-W's *The Stars Here* warmed up the stage with their anthemic rock antics to a diminutively sparse and squinting audience.

Patrick Finch's vocals recalled an early Bowie, and coupled with refreshingly un-clichéd rock guitar riffs, *The Stars Here* came across as a truly talented troupe. It was a short but sweet set, with a handful of unreleased material. From the quality on songs on display, it's sufficient to say that this band is destined for further fame.

Burlington's *The Next Best Thing* were up next, defrosting the atmosphere with their Jamaican reggae groove.

Unlike typical North American reggae bands, TNBT attempt to recreate a literal Jamaican vibe, complete with full-blown accents and vocal sound-effects. This was all a bit unconvincing to the audience, the majority of which seemed to take TNBT as the comic relief of the day.

The band didn't know if they wanted to be the next Barenaked Ladies or something entirely different. "Slow Down" had a catchy chorus, and closing songs about drinking in the park and liquor

stores roused the tiny audience, but ultimately repetition marred the band's efforts.

Hibakusha's singer Paul MacLeod sauntered casually onstage looking cozy in a scarf, while crowd numbers registered at 'shitty' on the Richter scale.

Bringing a unique sound faintly reminiscent of early 90's rock, Paul's live vocals oddly resembled Michael Stipe after a testosterone pill overdose. The Carlisle band blazed through songs off of their debut, notable highlights being "Moped Song" and a roaring "Teleangelina".

"Bobby Sands" mixed heavy rock choruses with Placebo-esque verses, while guitar-work on other tracks distinctly recall a *Holy Bible*-era Manics. Definitely one of the better bands of Polar Jam.

Next, Hamilton's baby-faced heart-rocker *Tomi Swick* fought the increasing snowstorm with his brand of soul-wrenching ballad tunes. "A Night Like This" proved itself as a live track, as Tomi wooed the female members with his stunning voice singing "it couldn't be anyone else here".

New tracks like "See You Again" (dedicated to his recently passed away mother and grandmother) brought a slow-tempo, heart-felt atmosphere to the sub-zero University Stadium.

"Holy shit, it is cold!" the young singer exclaimed before continuing his set. Tribal drums welcomed "Come in Two's" as the band ended the set with Tomi's vocal chords stretched to their fantastic limits. Chatting after his show, Swick remarked that "you get a little nervous without a sound-check, [but] overall it was just real-

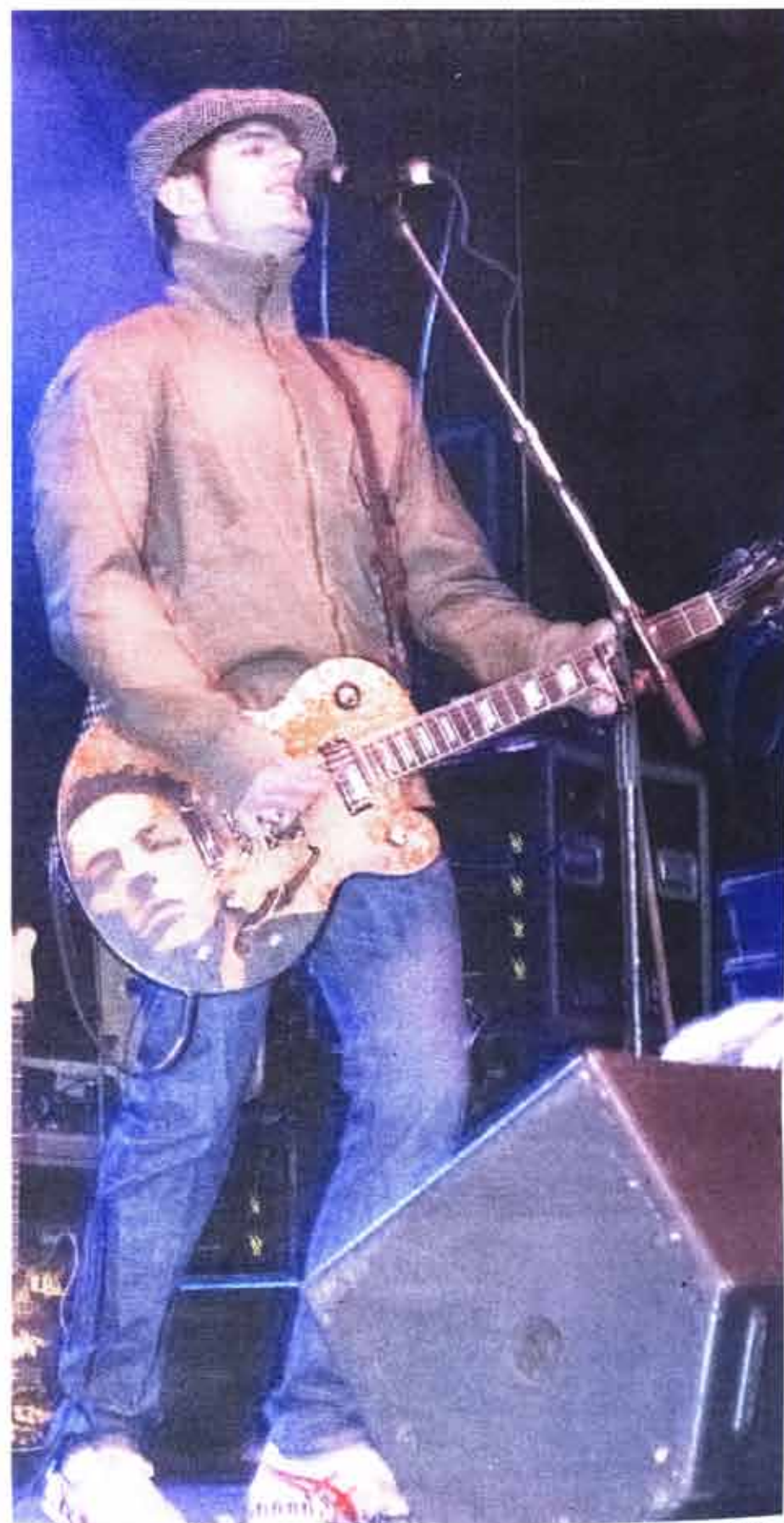
ly fun." Swick will now be flying to England to produce his debut album. "We're getting a townhouse, and Flood, who did *The Marble Index* album, is coming over to engineer my stuff, which should be cool," he explained.

Torontonians *Controller.Controller* opened their set with the infectious "PF", as cute singer Nirmala smiled while rocking along to the band's disco-beat punk. Wah guitar cut through her demanding refrain of "ask me what I did today", as the raw power of *Controller.Controller's* live show became unquestionable.

Guitarist Scott Kaija waggled his frosted fingers to fight the cold, while drummer Jeff Scheven looked toasty warm in a monster-mask balaclava. "If you skipped class today, thank you" chirped Nirmala before sensually dancing to the Gang of Four-influenced spike-punk of "Watch". Her voice was somewhat subdued, as the rhythm section was quite overpowering at times. This unfortunately led to some samey-sounding songs.

Still, more than anything, *Controller.Controller* proved that they're not just style over substance.

Matthew Barber, next on the bill, brought forward his radio-friendly style of wholesome easy-rock goodness, and crowd numbers gradually melted from the beer-tent up to the stage. Predictably opening with "Soft One", Barber got heads nodding and sing-a-long frolics began as the crowd shuffled their ice-cube feet.



Stuart Porter

— See **POLAR JAM**, page 23

JAY MARLEYOWSKI - Bedouin Soundclash headlined the sub-zero festival.